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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

**Would you support
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against Gov.
Benigno R. Fitia?**

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INSIDE

ASIA



Southeast Asia must present a united front in dealing South China Sea disputes.

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FOCUS



China's chaotic health care system is driving patient attacks against doctors.

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LIFE & STYLE



Michael Clarke Duncan, the hulking, prolific character actor, is dead at age 54.

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Fitia to address allegations 'soon'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia told members of the House leadership yesterday that he will soon address the impeachment allegations against him, including those in connection with the 25-year power purchase agreement, even as his administration describes as “frivolous” the impeachment resolution that the House minority bloc will formally introduce today.



Fitia

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Worker ordered to leave NMI, get visa at US Embassy in PH

A foreign worker being petitioned for a Commonwealth-only worker status was told by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to leave the CNMI and obtain a visa from the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines—something that the worker and his employer find odd.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman Elementary School students on their first day of school yesterday. A total of 19 public elementary, junior and senior high school campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota opened their doors to some 10,500 students for school year 2012-2013. Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ph.D., noted a “smooth and orderly” opening of classes yesterday.

AS SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013 STARTS

PSS posts biggest student-to-teacher ratio ever

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System ushered in school year 2012-2013 by making history with a deluge of students, resulting in a record-breaking student-to-

teacher ratio.

Public schools, including Head Start and Early Intervention programs, opened regular classes yesterday on a good note, despite the heavy downpour and expected larger class sizes in almost all grade levels.

The total number of public school students enrolled this year will be determined after two weeks at the end of registration.

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, Ph.D., toured several schools yesterday, includ-

ing at Kagman Elementary School, where she checked the first day of the implementation of double-sessions for fifth and sixth graders.

“[The opening of classes was] impressive because of the sense of readiness from our teachers,

to students, to parents. Despite the double-session at KagES, the first day of classes went very smoothly and we thank the parents for being at the school today to show their support,” Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

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Inos off to US for meetings on FICA, Social Security. **PAGE 2**
House poised to reject Senate-amended budget bill. **PAGE 4**

Local

Inos off to US for meetings on FICA, Social Security

» Talks may lead to exemption again for Filipinos, Koreans from paying FICA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos will leave today for Washington, D.C., California, and Hawaii to meet with federal officials on major issues affecting the CNMI, including transitioning government employees to the U.S. Social Security program by Oct. 1 and the possibility of once again exempting Filipino and Korean

transitional workers from paying federal taxes.

Inos leaves the CNMI a day after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial returned from three weeks of official and personal trips to Hawaii, American Samoa, Florida, and Idaho.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked about Inos' trip, confirmed that the lieutenant governor will go to Washington, D.C. first for a Sept. 6

meeting with U.S. Department of Treasury Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy Mark Mazur regarding FICA exemption for Filipino and Korean workers.

FICA stands for Federal Insurance Contribution Act.

Inos' meeting with Mazur will come days after the CNMI government voluntarily dismissed its lawsuit against the U.S. Treasury and the U.S. Internal Revenue Service over the

imposition of FICA tax on Filipino and Korean workers.

Demapan said Inos will have a Sept. 11 or 12 meeting in San Francisco, California with U.S. Social Security Administration regional officials, "regarding transition of government employees into the social security system beginning October 1."

"The lieutenant governor is hoping to meet with Regional Commissioner Bill Zielinski

and Director Martin White. These meetings have been requested and awaiting confirmation as of this reply," Demapan said.

Inos, when he was acting governor last week, signed into law a bill expressing the CNMI's desire to have the U.S. Social Security program extended to local government employees.

An accompanying pen-

sion recovery bill, however, is still with the Legislature. The House and Senate are expected to go into a conference committee for a compromise version.

The press secretary also said that on Sept. 13, Inos will be in Honolulu, Hawaii to meet with the CNMI Medical Referral Office staff "regarding budgetary and operations matters."

Special counsel Jim Stump will be accompanying Inos on this trip.

DESPITE FUND BOARD'S LACKS OF QUORUM

Fitial opposes litigation of 2 unnamed retirees' lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the CNMI government are opposed to the litigation of a lawsuit filed by two unnamed retirees despite that the NMI Retirement Fund board's lacks quorum.

Fitial and the CNMI government, through the Office of the Attorney General, said the U.S. District Court for the NMI should not proceed with the case because the Fund is adversely affected by the rulings.

The two unnamed plaintiffs also have alternative avenues to protect their rights, according to assistant attorney general Reena J. Patel in Fitial and CNMI government's response on Sunday to the court's request for additional briefing on the quorum issue.

Should the court grant the two unnamed retirees' motion to proceed with the lawsuit, this would leave the Fund defenseless, Patel said.

The federal court has set a

settlement discussion in the unnamed retirees' lawsuit for Sept. 10, 2012.

Patel said that without a proper board, the Fund will be unable to contribute to any settlement negotiations.

Further, Patel said, without the executive order that places the Fund under a state of emergency, the CNMI government could not defend the Fund's interests either.

"Such settlement negotiations would not be meaningful without all affected parties present and able to discuss the issues," Patel said.

She pointed out that leaving the Fund powerless to defend this litigation would adversely affect the Fund and its beneficiaries.

Patel said the plaintiffs could challenge the executive order through a Superior Court action.

In fact, the lawyer said, the federal court originally issued the stay in order to allow the two unnamed retirees to inter-

vene in the Superior Court action and avail themselves of post-judgment remedies.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood last week ordered the parties in the lawsuit filed by two unnamed retirees to present arguments whether the case can move forward given the Fund board's lack of quorum.

The unnamed retirees asked the court to grant their three emergency motions—motion to lift stay, motion for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction, and motion for leave to file a second amended complaint.

According to Fund board counsel Braddock Huesman, the board's lack of quorum is preventing it from taking a position on the two unnamed retirees' motions to prevent the enforcement of Fitial's executive order declaring a state of emergency for the financially troubled Fund.

Huesman, counsel for Fund trustees Pedro Q. Dela Cruz, Sixto K. Igisomar, and Adelina C. Roberto, said the board currently lacks a quorum and therefore, unable to take any action in defense of its right.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Lower grade students pass through the classrooms of the newly built building on campus, which now houses fifth and fourth graders. Garapan Elementary School, due to the additional classrooms, now accommodates all kindergarten students inside the campus.

GES opens new building for upper graders

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Fifth graders at Garapan Elementary School found a new home yesterday after the school opened a newly built school building that will accommodate upper graders.

In a visit to the campus yesterday, fifth grade students were seen inside their new classrooms, enjoying the new facility.

The new classrooms were built atop an existing building on campus using two funding sources—a previous allocation from the Legislature and from the interest of the \$15-million general obligation bond issued in 1998.

Besides the new classrooms,

GES students also saw new fences around the school yesterday.

According to PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, the overall cost of the project, including the school's newly built fence, is over \$1 million and its completion was targeted for the start of the new school year.

Saipan Tribune learned that the additional classrooms were built to address the longtime concern about GES' kindergarten students who have been attending classes in the MIHA Housing units located at the back of the school. This setup has been criticized because of security concerns.

GES principal Paulette Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that all kindergarten classes are now being conducted inside the campus and, because of the added classrooms, they were able to expand kindergarten classes to 120 students.

As of yesterday, GES had 867 enrollees from kinder to sixth grade.

Full-day kindergarten classes were implemented as policy since last school year to accommodate hundreds of children on the waitlist. However, due to the lack of classrooms, only a few schools have been able to implement this.

6 artists eye participation in Guam fair

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Some six traditional artists registered with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture have expressed interest to represent the CNMI at the 25th Annual Guam Micronesia Island Fair.

Arts in Program coordinator Parker Y. Yobei noted yesterday, though, that the council has yet to finalize the list of artists who will be going to Guam's annual signature cultural event.

Organized by the Guam Visitors Bureau, the event is slated

for Oct. 5 to 7 at the Ypao Beach Park in Tumon.

Yobei said they have invited all interested artists to attend today's meeting to firm up the delegation list.

"We need to know because we have to notify the Guam Visitors Bureau of the names of delegates so they can make arrangements for the artists' accommodation, so we urge those who have expressed interest to take part in the meeting," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Besides the six artists, Yobei disclosed that Teka Na Nui, a

performing group, also wants to represent the Commonwealth during the event.

Due to budget limitations, local artists who want to participate in the upcoming Guam cultural event will have to solicit or pay for their own airfares. GVB successfully made arrangements with United Airlines to give event participants from the CNMI and the rest of Micronesia discounted rates on airline tickets.

Local transportation, food, and lodging will be covered by the organizer.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

BACK TO THE SALT MINES

Students at Hopwood Junior High School walk to their first class for the new school year yesterday. Despite the heavy downpour and expected larger class sizes, most public schools marked a smooth and efficient opening of classes yesterday. **See story on Page 1.**

Worker asked to leave NMI, get visa at US Embassy in PH

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A foreign worker being petitioned for a Commonwealth-only worker status was asked by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to leave the CNMI and obtain a visa from the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines, something that the worker and his employer find odd considering that those petitioned for CW do not need to get a visa if they don't intend to travel outside the CNMI for the duration of their permit.

The employer's representative told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they had two options: Allow the worker to leave the CNMI and get a visa at the U.S. Embassy in Manila, or file a motion based on the California Service Center's decision by submitting form I-290B with a fee of \$630.

The employer, who requested that the company name be withheld from publication at this time, decided to just allow the worker, Orlando Mallari, to leave the CNMI and get a visa at the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

The airfare and the fee cost almost the same, at over \$600, so by allowing the worker to go to the embassy in Manila, that worker would also get to see his family, the employer said.

Mallari, a maintenance staff, is apparently not the only one in this quagmire. At least two employees from a major hotel also have to go home to get a visa although they don't intend to travel.

Mallari's appointment at the U.S. Embassy in Manila is today, the employer said.

In a June 19 letter to the worker's employer, USCIS director Rosemary Langley Mel-

ville said the beneficiary—Mallari—is eligible for the CW-1 classification but the “grant of status requested on behalf of the beneficiary is denied” because “USCIS records indicate that the beneficiary is currently inadmissible to the United States...”

USCIS' Melville said the agency determined in the exercise of discretion not to grant a waiver of any applicable grounds of inadmissibility.

The employer responded to that USCIS letter, showing proofs that Mallari had an umbrella permit, was here in 2008, 2009, and 2010 and attached copies of the W-2 tax form, as well as proof of last arrival in the CNMI as shown in his passport page.

Despite this, the worker was still asked to leave the CNMI.

Mallari's two other fellow maintenance staff employees who were also applied for CW permits were not asked to leave the CNMI.

“The beneficiary will be required to leave the CNMI and obtain a visa from the Department of State. Please note that the approved I-129CW petition for the CW-1 nonimmigrant classification has been forwarded to the U.S. Consulate in Manila, Philippines,” USCIS' Melville said in the letter to the employer.

USCIS further said that the decision resulting in the denial of the requested grant of status leaves the beneficiary without lawful immigration status.

It said absent an approved application or petition that would bestow valid immigration status upon the beneficiary, he or she is now present in the United States in violation of the law.

USCIS said failing to maintain valid immigration status

Alleged unruly woman grabs hold of cop's gun

An allegedly unruly and drunk woman managed to pull a gun halfway out of the holster of a police officer and squeezed the trigger twice at a residence in San Jose Saturday night. Fortunately, the gun did not go off because its safety catch was on.

Rosa W. Olaitiman, 45, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for an initial appearance on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, obstructing justice, and disturbing the peace. Her bail was set at \$7,250 cash.

Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 13 at 9am.

Police detective Patrick P. Sablan stated in his report that a police officer had responded to a residence in San Jose Saturday at 8:30pm after receiving a call about a disturbance.

Ben Olaitiman informed police officer Myron Laniyo that his sister, Rosa Olaitiman, while drinking beer at their residence, threw several cans of beer at him and at Manny Rabauliman.

Rosa Olaitiman allegedly started saying inappropriate

words against the men. When Ben Olaitiman told her to leave, the suspect allegedly got angry and threw beer cans at him and at their brother-in-law, Rabauliman. Ben Olaitiman was hit in the face, while Rabauliman was hit on the chest.

When Laniyo attempted to calm down Rosa Olaitiman, she pushed him. Moments later, the suspect grabbed Laniyo's firearm, threatening to shoot Ben Olaitiman and Rabauliman.

Laniyo and the suspect strug-

gled for control of the gun and Rosa Olaitiman somehow managed to pull the gun halfway out of its holster. She then squeezed the trigger twice. Fortunately, the gun did not go off. Laniyo then subdued the suspect and arrested her.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general Chemere K. McField appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti served as counsel for the defendant. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



TALENT SHOW

From left, Tommy Boy Atalig, Dean Manglona, and Ben B. perform for the crowd at the 2012 Man'amko Talent Show held last Aug. 17 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The three joined several congregates at the Aging Center as they showcased their talents, which included singing, dancing, poetry writing and reading, and even beatboxing, for over 120 community members who supported the fund-raising event.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

or remaining in the U.S. beyond the expiration of status will affect the beneficiary's ability to return to the U.S. in the future.

“If the beneficiary is currently not in a valid immigration status, this Notice of Decision leaves the beneficiary without lawful immigration status and the beneficiary is hereafter present in the United States in violation of the law and is required to depart the United States immediately,” USCIS told the employer.

USCIS also said there is no

present in the CNMI.

The employer representative said yesterday they are sharing this story to help warn or educate other employers and employees, that they may also

encounter this issue in their CW application.

CNMI immigration was placed under federal control in November 2009 pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229.

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WITH GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN LOOMING AGAIN

House leadership poised to reject Senate-amended budget bill today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that the House leadership will reject today a Senate-amended fiscal year 2013 budget bill and call for a bicameral conference committee to work on a "compromise"

version, barely three weeks before the Sept. 30 deadline to pass a budget.

Basa also said the \$114 million budget bill may not be the only major bill to be rejected today, but also the pension reform bill because of the Senate amendments to it.

"The Senate amendments to House Bill 17-315 affects the budget bill, making it not bal-

anced anymore. It throws off the budget," Basa said.

The Senate's amendments include requiring the government to continue to remit employer's contribution to the Defined Contribution Plan at a rate of 4 percent unless the employee ceases to make his contributions.

The governor's revised budget submission adding \$10

million to the projected revenues available for appropriation does not include this additional 4 percent contribution to the DC plan.

"My recommendation is also to reject HB 17-315, unless the Senate agrees to remove this amendment. If we could convince the Senate to remove this, then we could focus on the budget bill. Because we would

have a conference committee on the budget, HB 17-313, plus another conference committee on HB 17-315 or the budget bill is too much, with limited time we have," Basa added.

The Senate-amended House budget bill includes increased funding for the Public School System and other agencies compared to those given by the House. Senators, for ex-

ample, gave PSS what it asked for—\$33 million for fiscal year 2013—compared to \$28 million that the House gave. The Senate also boosted Medicaid reimbursement funds to more than \$3 million, much more than the House's proposal of \$1.4 million.

Unless a budget bill is passed by Sept. 30, the government will have to shut down.

Judge halts agreements related to \$190M PPA

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman said yesterday he will issue a supplemental preliminary injunction to stop Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC from pursuing all agreements associated or related to the \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

Wiseman said he will not issue a temporary restraining

order but instead will grant a supplemental preliminary injunction in favor of the Senate and Reps. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-Saipan) and Ray Anthony N. Yumul (R-Saipan).

Preliminary injunction refers to a court order issued in the early stages of a lawsuit that enjoins or prohibits a party or parties from performing an act in order to preserve the status quo until a pending ruling or outcome is issued.

Wiseman made the decision after assistant attorney general

David Lochabay, counsel for Fitial and Alepuyo, informed the court that they will not oppose to a preliminary injunction.

Wiseman asked Ramon K. Quichocho, counsel for the Senate, Maratita, and Yumul, to prepare the proposed supplemental preliminary injunction.

The related agreements include the pledge and security agreement between CUC and Saipan Development LLC; the escrow, pledge and security agreement between Saipan Development LLC, CUC, and

an agent; and the guaranty between the CNMI government and Saipan Development LLC.

The other agreements are the March 27, 2012, option-to-lease agreement between the Department of Public Lands and Saipan Development LLC; the March 27, 2012, power plant development and management agreement between the CNMI government and Saipan Development; the Aug. 3, 2012, option-to-lease agreement between DPL and Saipan Development; and any other agreements related to the already enjoined power purchase agreement.

The plaintiffs filed Friday the second motion for TRO for the related agreements.

On Aug. 21, 2012, Wiseman granted Maratita's first request for a TRO to prohibit Fitial and his co-defendants from pursuing the power purchase agreement.

On Thursday, Maratita amended her complaint to include the Senate and Yumul as co-plaintiffs.

Acting AG Alepuyo substituted Buckingham as one of the defendants in the lawsuit because the former AG has already resigned.

In the amended complaint,

Quichocho attached a copy of power purchase agreement with the signature of a representative for Saipan Development LLC manager Donald R. Kurz. Fitial signed the agreement for CUC along with then AG Buckingham on Aug. 3, 2012.

On Friday, Wiseman issued a preliminary injunction that prohibits Fitial and co-defendants from pursuing the power purchase agreement.

Wiseman said that based on the consent of Fitial, Alepuyo, and CUC, he issues the preliminary injunction on the same terms as the TRO he earlier issued.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Fitial met with at least eight House leadership members over lunch yesterday, but the meeting was mostly on economic development plans, including making the CNMI a regional airline hub.

Lawmakers interviewed after the meeting said the governor didn't ask them to reject the impeachment resolution.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and other lawmakers said the governor told them he will address the articles of impeachment in the coming days.

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately confirmed this.

"Yes, the governor will be addressing the allegations for impeachment, including the power purchase agreement in the coming days," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The administration is not saying yet how the governor will

do so: by holding a news conference, delivering a state of the Commonwealth address, or through a televised or written statement.

Cabrera reiterated that he will be forming a special committee on impeachment once the resolution is formally introduced. The House will hold a session at 2pm today.

Demapan said the Fitial administration "certainly" welcomes the formation of such a special committee.

"The next best thing to do after introduction of a frivolous resolution is to convene a committee to look for any merits to the allegations. The governor, like any other person, deserves a fair and impartial proceeding," Demapan said.

He added: "It is good to know that this early, some House members are already questioning the integrity of the impeachment process if a representative and the Senate are parties in an ongoing litigation on a matter that is also listed as one of the

articles of impeachment."

"It is quite obvious that these members will not be able to act in a fair and impartial manner as they have already conflicted their positions by participating in the ongoing litigation," the press secretary added.

He was referring to the previous statements of Reps. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), both still undecided on their vote on the impeachment resolution.

Last week, the administration described the allegations as not rising to the level of impeachment proceedings.

'No backing off'

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), one of the seven who co-authored the impeachment resolution, separately said that today will be "historic," given that it will be the first time in CNMI history that a resolution impeaching a governor will be formally introduced in a House session.

He said whether they have the numbers or not is not up to him alone.

"We don't have intention of backing off," he said in an interview at his office yesterday.

The impeachment resolution lists 16 articles of impeachment for felony, corruption and neglect of duty, including those in connection with the release of a federal inmate to massage the governor in January 2010, a sole-source ARRA management contract, non-appointment of a Supreme Court justice, non-reimbursement of full employer contribution to the now cash-strapped NMI Retirement Fund, not firing his former attorney general, and a no-bid power purchase agreement that has a guaranteed price of \$190.8 million.

At least 14 "yes" votes are needed in the 20-member House to impeach the governor, and at least six "yes" votes in the nine-member Senate to convict the governor.

So far, only eight House members have gone on the re-

cord to say they will vote "yes" to the impeachment resolution, seven of them co-authors of the resolution.

Airline hub

The House speaker, Villagomez, other lawmakers and the press secretary separately said the governor's meeting with the House leadership centered on improving the CNMI economy.

"He wants to entice airlines to make the CNMI their base. The governor is considering, for example, including airlines in a qualifying certificate program," said Villagomez, chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

Cabrera said the House leadership supports the administration's focus on economic development.

Demapan said the governor "would like to see the CNMI serve as a regional airline hub."

"Achieving such would both stimulate our economy and create new jobs for our residents. However, to achieve this vi-

sion, the governor would like to work with the Legislature to come up with innovative ways, such as the qualifying certificate program, to provide attractive incentives to commercial airlines. The bottom line here is to create new jobs, get more people to work, and reduce dependency on government handouts," he said.

Fitial returned to the CNMI yesterday, after three weeks of official and personal trips to Hawaii, American Samoa, Florida, and Boise, Idaho.

He was off-island when news of the secretive power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC broke, and when the House minority bloc pre-filed a resolution to impeach him.

The Superior Court also issued a preliminary injunction that prohibits Fitial and co-defendants from pursuing the power purchase agreement, with Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), and the Senate as plaintiffs.

PSS

From Page 1

KagES' double session was due to the lack of classroom teachers. Sablan said the school's students-to-teacher ratio as of yesterday is 30 students per teacher, mostly in upper grade levels. KagEs, she said, has only about 20 teachers and needs four more classroom teachers in order to reduce the extra-large class sizes.

In a visit to Hopwood Junior High School, principal Jonas Barcinas was seen walking around the campus to ensure the smooth opening of classes.

As of yesterday, Hopwood had 1,177 students but that number may increase in coming

days following the disclosure that there are about 60 more incoming seventh graders who have yet to register at PSS.

"With only 34 teachers, I can say this is the biggest ratio ever recorded here at Hopwood (as far as my administration is concerned). Because we have more seventh graders this year than eight graders, our ratio is up to 35 students or more," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that large class sizes will only be addressed when school are allowed to hire more teachers.

Hopwood needs at least 10 more teachers to accommodate the increased number of enrollees this year. Last year, Hopwood had 45 teachers and 1,300 students at the opening of the school year.

According to Barcinas, three teacher-volunteers—all of them highly qualified—are helping out temporarily.

"Even cluster schools are suffering because we all need additional teachers, so I am glad that there are community members who are willing to help us," said Barcinas, adding that these volunteers could save school counselors and administrators from handling certain classes because the school employs no substitutes this year.

Commissioner Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that she has to consult the Board of Education first on this issue of schools having volunteer-teachers. The commissioner is expected to visit Hopwood today.

At Chacha Oceanview Junior

High School, principal Vince Dela Cruz also described this year's ratio as the biggest in the history of the school with 35 students per teacher as of yesterday.

Chacha has a total of 390 enrollees as of yesterday, an increase from last year's 364. Due to funding constraints, Chacha was also barred from hiring two teachers to add to its staff of only nine classroom teachers. Large classes are in seventh grade with 35:1, while most classes in eighth grade are at 30:1.

"In this situation of the public schools, we need additional funding to continue to provide quality education so I hope our lawmakers are listening to us...because they can help," said Dela Cruz.

At Garapan Elementary School, a total of 867 students

are being handled by 34 classroom teachers, including those for special education and the Chamorro Carolinian Language Heritage Studies programs.

GES principal Paulette Sablan said the biggest classes as of yesterday were in the fourth and second grades with up to 34 students per teacher. The rest have 27 students per class.

In order to reduce large class sizes, GES needs three to four more teachers to be assigned to fourth and second grades, principal Sablan said. Because GES has no substitute teachers, its counselors and vice principal are taking over some of the classes when needed.

In spite of the larger class sizes this year, Paulette Sablan said the opening went efficiently because

of the positive attitude of teachers and the cooperation and support of parents and the students.

Another school that had a smooth opening yesterday was Marianas High School, the largest public high school on island, which has about 1,400 enrollees this year.

Commissioner Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that Kagman High School also saw an organized opening yesterday. She even joined the students in their orientation.

Today, Sablan intends to check the Tinian and Rota schools and how the online courses went through on the two islands yesterday.

PSS opened classes yesterday with only a little over 400 teachers.

Sports & Rec's Reyes arrested anew, this time for alleged baseball attack

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Division of Sports and Recreation deputy director John B. Reyes Jr. was arrested again over the weekend, this time for allegedly shattering the window of a car with a baseball bat and assaulting the driver.

The alleged victim, Derek Camacho Reyes, sustained a small cut on his neck, possibly due to pieces of shattered glass, police said.

John and Derek Reyes are related.

Police said the possible reason for the attack was a love triangle.

Derek Reyes' girlfriend and their three children were reportedly inside the car when the attack happened.

John Reyes was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for his initial court appearance on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Associate judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed John Reyes to post \$650 cash and \$5,850 in unsecured bond for his temporary release.

John Reyes' father, former Public Works secretary Juan Sablan Reyes, was named third-party custodian for the defendant.

Police detective Israel M. De Leon stated in his report that Sgt. Arnold Seman was heading north on Beach Road in Garapan on Saturday night when he saw two men struggling in the driver's seat of a white car.

The driver's door of the car was wide open at the time. Seman approached the car and grabbed the person, later identified as John Reyes, who was on top of Derek Reyes. Seman handcuffed John Reyes and placed him inside his police vehicle.

Seman reportedly noticed that the driver's side window of the car was shattered and that there was a baseball bat on the road-way next to the vehicle.

Derek Reyes reportedly told police that he, his girlfriend, and their children were heading north on Beach Road when they stopped at a red light. While at a stop, John Reyes allegedly walked in front of the victim's car, stood by the driver's side door, and swung an aluminum baseball bat, shattering the window.

John Reyes then allegedly swung again the baseball bat, causing the glass to scatter all over the front portion inside the car.

Derek Reyes opened the door, but John Reyes immediately got on top of him.

Derek Reyes said he grabbed John Reyes' head and hugged it tightly to avoid getting hit with the bat. A few seconds later, Seman arrived and grabbed the suspect out of the car.

At the hearing, assistant attorney general James B. McAllister appeared for the government. Stephen C. Woodruff served as counsel for the defendant.

On March 30, 2012, police arrested John Reyes and then Sports and Recreation staff Mario O. Sablan for suspicion of burglary at several classrooms and storage rooms at Garapan Elementary School on March 25, 2012.

Last June, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos dismissed the criminal case against John Reyes after the Office of the Attorney General and John Reyes filed a joint motion to dismiss the complaint.

The case against Sablan is still pending in court.

Rotary's village sign project underway

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The village signs project of the Rotary Club of Saipan is now in progress, according to Community Services director Curtis Dancoe.

Dancoe reported during yesterday's membership meeting that RNV Construction, in charge of the sign installation, has already started putting up the posts for these village signs.

An employee of RNV Construction showed a sample of the sign, which features the Rotary International emblem with the sentences "Drive Carefully" and "Protect Our Children." Each sign will be mounted on a 6'2" street post.

Dancoe said that a total of 10 signs will be erected throughout different villages on island as part of the Rotary's community service projects.

"We wanted to commence the project before the start of the school year but because of the materials and logistics involved, we couldn't come together right before back-to-school. Now it's in full swing," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

"These signs are just a friendly reminder to motorists for them to drive safely," added Dancoe.

He said the project is made possible through the contributions they received as well as



Picture shows a sample of the village sign that the Rotary Club of Saipan will be putting up in different villages on island as part of its community service projects.

fundraising efforts conducted by the Saipan Rotary.

"We'll be looking for more active, positive messages in the community that we can pass on

to our youth," Dancoe said.

The installation of the signs will be completed within the week, depending on the weather, said the RNV Construction staffer.



UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold a 4th Quarter General Membership Meeting on Friday, September 14, 2012, from 10:30am – 2:00pm at the Caladium Hall, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Kagman III.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – June 07, 2012
- V. GUEST SPEAKER
 - a. Karen Tydingco, Federal Disability Examiner, Region XI, Center for Disability
- VI. ACTION ITEMS
 - a. Executive Director Employment Contract
 - b. Review & Approval of Proposed FY 2013 Budget
- VII. REPORT
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Executive Director
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. State Plan Committee Chairperson
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Status of 2012 – 2016 State Plan Amendment Submission
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. 2013 Summer Camp (A DD Tri-Agency Effort)
 - b. Status of Call-A-Ride Service Contract
 - c. Office of Transit Authority Public Transportation Update
 - d. New Council Membership Orientation
- X. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XI. MISCELLANEOUS
- XII. NEXT MEETING
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-12-025

CONSTRUCTION OF MAINTENANCE & REPAIR SHOP BUILDINGS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of new concrete block maintenance and repair shop buildings at the CUC Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Facility on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The project consists in general of the construction of concrete block maintenance and repair shop buildings and the expansion of existing buildings located on Saipan at Sadog Tasi. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the wastewater treatment plant or the operations at the water and wastewater operations offices. The work includes construction of water maintenance shop, parking sheds, wastewater equipment storage, pump shop extension, guard house and asphalt paving improvements. The Project is to be completed in 240 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 11, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-12-025, Construction of Maintenance & Repair Shop Buildings**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 2, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **September 14, 2012** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Commander, Kenneth Esplin, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kenneth.esplin@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ **ALAN W. FLETCHER**
Acting Executive Director

PSS hikes meal reimbursement of food vendors

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Food vendors servicing public and private schools under the breakfast and lunch meal program will see an increase in their reimbursements starting Oct. 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Tim Thornburgh, federal programs officer for the Public School System, said the meal reimbursement will be adjusted by \$0.20 cents for breakfast meals and \$0.25 cents for lunch meals.

He said the new reimbursement rate was implemented in anticipation of the challenges facing food vendors such as the 50-cent increase in minimum wage this month and the increasing cost of commodity

prices such as corn and other goods.

PSS has six food vendors this school year: MV Reyes, Songao Enterprises, Herman’s Bakery, Kalayaan, LSG, and Barney’s.

Schools have different reimbursement rates.

Based on the existing rates, Saipan Head Start and day care centers get reimbursement rates of \$1.80 per breakfast meal and \$2.40 per lunch meal. Saipan elementary schools are reimbursed \$2 for breakfast and \$3.10 for lunch. Saipan secondary schools, meanwhile, provide reimbursement rates of \$2.30 for breakfast and \$3.40 for lunch.

Tinian and Rota schools have slightly higher reimbursement rates than Saipan.

Meantime, students whose families have incomes above the 133 percent national poverty guidelines will be paying a standardized cost per meal, which is \$0.50 cents for breakfast and \$0.75 cents for lunch.

This rate, according to Thornburgh, was set by PSS and has never been changed since 1995. “We have not raised these rates and we don’t anticipate raising it now especially when families are having difficult times,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Thornburgh, only 25 percent of the entire PSS student population pays a small fee for the breakfast and lunch meals. The rest avail of the school meals free of charge.

This new school year, the school breakfast and lunch meal

program expects to serve 1,100 students in private schools, 200 children in day care centers, and about 8,500 students in public schools.

The PSS breakfast and lunch meal program receives assistance every year from the Food and Nutrition Services Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This new fiscal year’s assistance totals \$10 million.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW ALTER SERVERS
Congratulations to the newly installed alter servers for the Santa Remedios Parish in Tanapag.

Car seat and seatbelt inspections set

In preparation for the upcoming Child Passenger Safety Week National Seat Check, the Department of Public Safety’s Police Division and Traffic Section will be conducting courtesy car seat and seat belt inspections.

Certified child passenger safety technicians will be on hand to check car seats for proper installation and advise parents and caregivers how to choose the right car seats and install them properly in their vehicles. The event, part of the department’s participation in Child Passenger

Safety Week (Sept. 16-22), is free to the public.

By attending these car seat inspections, parents and caregivers can be sure their kids are riding as safely as possible.

Courtesy car seat and seat belt inspections will be conducted at the following locations, dates, and time:

Sept. 11	B/R Susupe	Minatchom Atdao pavilion	10am-4pm
	B/R Garapan	Fishing Base	10am-4pm
Sept. 13	B/R Garapan	Thursday Market	6pm-9pm
Sept. 15	B/R Susupe	Sabalu Market	8am-12pm
Sept. 18	B/R Susupe	Minatchom Atdao pavilion	10am-4pm
	B/R Garapan	Fishing Base	10am-4pm
Sept. 20	B/R Garapan	Thursday Market	6pm-9pm
Sept. 22	B/R Susupe	Sabalu Market	8am-12pm
	B/R Garapan	Fishing Base	10am-4pm

Feds OK \$300K for CHC’s health info tech project

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was recently notified by the Health Resources and Services Administration that a federal grant amounting to \$300,000 has been approved for the Commonwealth.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta confirmed receiving the notice of approval. The financial assistance covers the period of Sept. 1, 2012, through Aug. 31, 2013.

The grant, which is for the project titled Rural Health Information Technology Network Program, will be used for the following purposes: personnel costs, \$71,688; equipment, \$20,000; supplies, \$800; travel, \$11,944; other, \$14,311; and contractual costs, \$181,257.


According to HRSA, the award is based on an application submitted to the agency.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical

Health Act of 2009 authorized incentive payments through Medicare and Medicaid to clinicians and hospitals when they use electronic health records privately and securely to achieve specific improvements in care delivery. HITECH’s goal is not solely the adoption of electronic health records but meaningful use of these records and the use by providers to achieve improvements in care.

The primary purpose of the Rural Health Information Technology Network Program is to support rural organizations in their ability to effectively achieve “meaningful use” requirements. The program is authorized under Section 330A (f) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. The purpose of the program is to expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of essential health care services, and enhance the delivery of health care in rural areas. The program will also support rural providers who work in formal networks, alliances, coalitions, or partnerships in their effort to effectively achieve “meaningful use” requirements.

The Rural Health Information Technology Program supports HRSA’s goals of improving access and quality of health care, improving health outcomes, and improving public health and health care systems. The program also supports Health and Human Services goals to improve the quality, affordability, and accessibility of health care and to promote the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, and communities.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB12-GOV-105
Roof Repair & Coating for Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian MP

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Roof Repair & Coating for the Tinian Health Center, San Jose Village, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on August 22, 2012 at the Governor’s CIP Administrator’s Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on September 10, 2012 at the project site. Bidders are encouraged to visit the site to familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on September 12, 2012, to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **“ITB12-GOV-105”**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 am Saipan local time, September 24, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 am local time, September 24, 2012, by fax to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 24, 2012 and must be received no later than October 1, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, October 2, 2012. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on September 24, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier’s Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: “Credit Account No. 44660”. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash

2) US Government Securities

3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is Sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred dollars (**\$200.00**), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Coast Guard Sector Guam boasts of new communications system, response boat

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam now uses a new and advanced maritime command, control, and communications system that increases coverage gaps in coastal areas, enhancing the agency's capability to locate distressed mariners and improving response time in saving lives.

Rescue 21 "will save us money and save us lives," said Sector Commander Casey J. White, speaking to Rotary Club of Saipan members yesterday at

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Commander Casey J. White speaks to Rotary Club of Saipan members yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



US Air Force seeks input on historic CNMI sites

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii—The U.S. Air Force is asking those with interest in the historical sites related to Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport, and the seaports of both islands, to provide information that they wish to be considered by the Air Force as part of its ongoing assessment of potential effects related to a planned Exercises and Divert Activities airfield improvement project.

The Air Force is considering the Saipan and Tinian airports as possible sites for future training exercises and missions related to overall emergency preparedness in the Pacific.

The Air Force is proposing improvements to an existing airport that would involve construction of facilities and infrastructure to support a combination of military cargo, fighter, and tanker aircraft and associated support personnel for periodic divert landings, joint military exercises, and joint and combined humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. Existing capabilities at each of these airports and seaports will play an important role in determining what improvements need to be made, and which site is ultimately chosen for the proposed project. The Air Force could also choose to employ some combination of both airports to meet its objectives.

Saipan and Tinian were the sites of intense fighting in World War II as the U.S. sought to wrest control of the islands from Japanese forces. After a massive loss of life to the forces of both nations, the U.S. captured Japan's main airfield on the island, known as As Lito Field, on June 18, 1944. The capture of As Lito Field proved decisive for the U.S. in the battle for Saipan. U.S. forces immediately began using the airfield for airstrikes, supply runs, and aerial photog-

raphy missions that allowed for accurate mapping of Japanese positions, bunkers, and trench lines as well as Saipans rugged terrain.

On July 24, 1944, two weeks after capturing Saipan, U.S. forces invaded Tinian. The island was secured on Aug. 1, 1944, after a loss of 8,010 Japanese lives. American casualties included 328 dead and 1,571 wounded. American troops immediately began work repairing and expanding Gurguan Airfield, today the site of the international airport, and Ushi Point Airfield, which was transformed into the North Field, the largest airbase in the Pacific. A year later, North Field became one of the most significant airfields in history when it served as the deployment point for the atomic bombing missions by Enola Gay to Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, and Bockscar to Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. These missions, the only wartime use of nuclear weapons in history, were a critical factor in Japan's surrender on Sept. 2, 1945.

Today, the landing beaches on Saipan used by U.S. forces, as well as Marpi Point, are part of the same National Historic Landmark as As Lito/Isley Field. North Field on Tinian is now a national historic district and part of the Tinian Landing Beaches, Ushi Point, and North Fields National Historic Landmark.

Not only is the consideration of potential effects of actions on historic properties required under various laws, but an understanding is essential to design and operation of the airfield improvements to fully evaluate the environmental impacts from the proposed action.

The Air Force is in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, for the proposed training exercises and missions. The public has participated in these processes

during Air Force sponsored EIS scoping meetings held on Guam, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota last September and during public hearings on Saipan and Tinian in July 2012, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Air Force is also working with agencies charged with management of historic resources including the CNMI Historic Preservation Office, National Park Service, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to properly evaluate and avoid, minimize, or mitigate any effects to historic properties. This article is intended to solicit public involvement in the effort to identify and protect historic resources that could be impacted by the proposed action.

In addition to recognizing the rich World War II history of the CNMI, particularly Saipan and Tinian, the Air Force is also interested in gathering information pertinent to the areas history and use before European contact and its possible role in traditional beliefs and customs of native islanders and other communities today.

Those with interests and information pertaining to the historical attributes of the area are encouraged to submit their comments to PACAF/PA, 25 E Street, Suite G-108, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI 96853, ATTN: PACAF Divert Marianas, or by email at pacaf.paops@us.af.mil. The Air Force has also set up a website at <http://www.pacafdivertmarianaseis.com>, which houses important information about the proposed project and alternatives, including the Draft EIS and all related documents the Air Force has released for public review.

Interested parties may also submit comments relating to the historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act via this website. (PR)

nautical miles from the coastline, White said.

"This new capability is really remarkable," she told Rotarians, adding that Sector Guam is presently conducting education and outreach among the local boating community about the new system of four antennas: one each on Saipan and Rota and two in Guam.

Rescue 21 replaces the National Distress and Response System, which used VHF transmission via Channel 16, their primary ship-to-ship distress frequency.

Given the previous lack of coverage, White disclosed that boaters within the Sector Guam jurisdiction would rely on cell phones, which "might alert us that you're in trouble but doesn't tell us where you are."

According to the U.S. Coast Guard website, Rescue 21 improves information sharing and coordination with the Department of Homeland Security and other federal, state, and local first responders as well as identifies suspected hoax calls.

"By harnessing state-of-the-market technology, Rescue 21 enables the Coast Guard to execute its search and rescue missions with greater agility and efficiency," it added.

Besides Rescue 21, Sector Guam also has additional response boats for Guam, allowing them to send Coast Guard cutters *Washington* and *Assateague* to the Northern Marianas.

"It really frees up resources so we can focus on areas where we haven't been able to fully cover in the past," explained White.

An active unit since 2005, Sector Guam encompasses 2 million square miles of the Northern Marianas, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau, and is one of the 36 sectors of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Founded in 1791, the U.S. Coast Guard is one of the five armed forces of the United States and the only organization within the Department of Homeland Security. It is *Semper Paratus*—always ready—to provide services in maritime security operations, maritime law enforcement, maritime prevention, maritime response, defense operations, and marine transportation system management.

"We are responsible for taking the lead in building maritime awareness in the Micronesian region to improve our knowledge of what's out there and identify any threat and where it's coming from," said White.

the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

From a 15-percent coverage using the old system, Rescue 21 has increased coverage to 99.5 percent and extends it out to 20

CPA sets random vehicle inspections

The Commonwealth Ports Authority announced yesterday that it will be conducting random vehicle inspection on vehicles approaching the terminal. This is to prevent or deter Large Vehicle Improvised

Explosive Device, LVIED, or Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices, VBIED.

Ports police will remove any unauthorized vehicles parked at the terminal building where pas-

sengers load and unload.

Random inspection will take place at the entrance to the departure terminal and will be conducted daily during peak hours at the airport terminal. (PR)

SAIPAN LAULAU DEVELOPMENT INC. dba LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT HVAC TECHNICIAN

Location: Duties:

Facility and Maintenance Department
Repairs roof top cooling units, motors, and pumps of varying size and configuration
Wires and maintains electrical temperature controls, changes bearings, fans, motors, and shafts
Repairs, installs, and maintains air conditioning compressors and electrical motors
Trouble shoots and repairs roof top air conditioning, cooling towers, pumps, coils and related equipment
Knows how to use all hand tools, test equipment, power tools and other equipment associated with the trade
Performs other work related duties as assigned

Requirements:

High School diploma or GED, additional technical education preferred
Three years experience in the trade
Knowledge of cooling units, and physically able to perform essential functions
Follow plans of procedure, determined sequence of operations and complete a project using acceptable procedures
Must be able to be contacted by phone and must respond to emergencies
Performs preventive and regularly schedules maintenance of the systems,
Technician's training and certification must be in accordance with the provisions found in Subsection 82.161 of 40 CFR Part 82 Subpart F
Helps other maintenance staff as needed or as directed
Applications must be submitted to the Human Resources Office, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort no later than Friday, 5:00 pm on September 14, 2012. You can also email your application to mada@laolaoabay.com. A resume will not be accepted in lieu of an application. No phone calls will be accepted.
Applications are available at the Front Office, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Kagman
Minimum wage

Deadlines:

Applications:

Salary:

The LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort hires only United States Citizen and lawfully authorized nonresident workers who are in compliance with their Immigration Status.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

1st Northern Frontier Summit seeks to develop NI

CAPITOL HILL, Saipan—The Honorable Tobias Aldan, mayor of the Northern Islands, is pleased to announce the Northern Islands 1st Frontier Summit scheduled to be held Thursday, Sept. 6, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Azucena I & II.

The summit is made possible through the financial assistance of the Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) and the coordination efforts of the Northern Islands Development Planning Committee (NIDPC)—created by Mayor Aldan. The NIDPC is charged with planning for the redevelopment and resettlement of the CNMI's northern frontier, particularly the island of Pagan.

"This historic 1st Northern Frontier Development Summit

will zero in on opportunities, initiatives, and potentials for pioneering economic redevelopment ventures in the northern frontier, promoting self-help investment activities, and private business ventures. These include engaging venture capitalists and exploring opportunities for public-private sector partnerships," states Mayor Aldan. The focus areas include Free Trade Zones – Business and Trade Island, NMD Beneficiary Land Use – Mineral and Natural Resources, Agri-Island Inc., Marine Culture, Hot Spring/Black Sand – Volcano Bungalow Island Tourism, All Natural Energy Island – Sun/Wind/Thermo, and Silver Expedition.

The keynote speaker is Doug Brenan, president, Saipan

Chamber of Commerce, and general manager of Microl Corporation – Toyota.

For Jerome Kaipat Aldan, program coordinator, this summit is proving to be an experience in the making as he has been working on all logistics and planning since last year. With the final commitment and support from SNILD, he is now able to bring this summit to fruition. "With the experience learnt on how much harder it takes for an idea to materialize in government, we hope to welcome inputs from the community and key stakeholders during this summit, and continue to work hard in making our vision for the Northern Islands a sustainable reality. Our focus may be overly optimistic, but we need

to take this opportunity to gather, discuss, learn, and act on any potential, viable, and sustainable economic development plan."

The Northern Islands Development Planning Committee give thanks in advance to the SNILD, the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, the CNMI Department of Commerce, CDA, CPA, DLNR, MVA, NOAA, PEW, UOG, CREES, DPL, and everyone that is pitching in one way or another.

Registration for the 1st Northern Frontier Development Summit will start as early as 7:30am on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012. If you need further assistance, please call Jerome Kaipat Aldan at 664-6466, or email jayz-way11@hotmail.com. (PR)

Atalanta Sosnoff backs Pacific investment confab

Leading investment adviser Atalanta Sosnoff has set its support for the upcoming 12th Pacific Region Investment Conference set on Nov. 15 and 16, 2012, in Manila, the Philippines.

Atalanta Sosnoff is a single strategy firm founded in 1981. It is dedicated to achieving out-performance versus relevant benchmarks and peers regardless of the market environment. It is defined by investment research, dedicated client service and high ethical standards.

"Atalanta Sosnoff is glad to partner with APAFS again this year. As the Asia-Pacific region continues to become even more important to the world economy, we believe that emphasis should be placed on sustainable and responsible growth," said Kamani Kuala'au, Atalanta Sosnoff senior vice president for market-

ing. "We believe that initiatives such as the annual investment conference provides a chance for us to discuss the best strategies to achieve this growth."

With the theme "Promoting Global Sustainability through Social Responsible Investing," this year's Investment Conference calls for sustainable economic development led by socially responsible professionals in the field of investment. As an independent investment adviser providing advisory services to various organizations, foundations, funds and individuals, Atalanta Sosnoff will offer its expert advice and share its philosophies and strategies in navigating various market environments.

"The PRIC is aimed at providing a venue for knowledge-sharing, underscoring the need for best practices for the indus-

try which is why we're very honored to once again have Atalanta Sosnoff's support. With Atalanta Sosnoff as our partner, we are confident that this year's delegates will benefit from the firm's unique philosophies and investment management style," said Daniel A. Roland, executive director of the Asia-Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies. "As a firm dedicated to providing clients with above average returns and high-touch client service, Atalanta Sosnoff will be able to provide this year's delegates with insights on responsible investing and sustainable practices that benefit everyone in the long term."

In conjunction with the conference, APAFS brings for the second year the Accredited Investment Fiduciary™ Training Program facilitated by fi360 on

Nov. 13 and 14, 2012. The AIF Training Program gives attendees the ability to earn the AIF designation, which is the first and only designation that demonstrates knowledge and competency in the area of fiduciary responsibility.

APAFS is a Guam based 501c3 non-profit association whose mission is to raise the level of standards of practice among fiduciaries in the Asia Pacific region. APAFS members comprise central governments, government agencies, colleges and universities and other institutional investors.

To register for the Pacific Region Investment Conference, log on to www.apafsevents.com. For more information about the PRIC and the AIF Training Program, visit www.apafs.org. (APAFS)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 5, 2000

Carriers get \$181K from CPA's airline incentive program

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has granted CNMI signatory airlines close to \$200,000 in total incentives under a program that gives substantial discount in airport charges to carriers that are able to increase their average monthly traffic count. CPA comptroller Dave S. Demapan disclosed that implementation of the ports authority's Airline Incentive Program has translated to about \$149,000 in total savings to foreign carriers during the period that stretches between October 1, 1999 to July 31, 2000. Between May and September 1999, international airline companies servicing the Northern Marianas received an aggregated amount of \$23,000 in total discount from the incentive program.

SGMA presses feds to settle Eurotex dispute

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association has appealed to federal labor officials to settle disputes with Eurotex in a bid to expedite payment of back wages owed to some 300 factory workers. SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce asked assistance last week from David Boback, assistant district director of the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division's district office in Honolulu. "I understand that both U.S. Labor and Eurotex have deposited sums of money for distribution to the workers once a settlement is reached," he wrote to Mr. Boback. "We find it unfair to the injured parties to have to wait until the battling entities reach some accord before they trust each other enough to pay the poor people. Please do something to take care of these people," asked Mr. Pierce.

Sept. 5, 2001

Abramoff updates officials on NMI-related affairs in US

In what was described as an "informal" gathering, the CNMI government's lobbyist in Washington D.C. updated Commonwealth officials on the status of CNMI-related issues and bills now pending before the US Congress. According to Richard Pierce, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Jack Abramoff of Greenberg & Traurig presented his federal legislative report and update at the Hyatt Hotel's Chinese Restaurant yesterday noon. Pierce said the special luncheon presentation was made possible with the consent of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Abramoff.

Consortium confident in prison project

A business consortium is optimistic that the chances of its nearest competitor to get the multi-million dollar contract for the Saipan prison facility have perished for failure to file an appeal on time. Telesource CNMI, Inc. has not appealed the decision of Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan that effectively favored the chances of the joint venture of Western Equipment, Inc. and DRC Pacific, Inc. WEI-DRC counsel Stephen J. Nutting remained positive on the possibility that the Department of Public Works has been reviewing his client's bid offer so that an award of the project contract can eventually be made.

Sept. 5, 2002

Mayor claims majority's backing on project site

Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona yesterday said he has the backing of some 800 people-about two-thirds of the island's voting population-in connection with the dispute over the location of CIP projects, threatening the Rota Legislative Delegation that their opposition would mean "political suicide." The dispute has delayed the implementation of the projects, although federal funds have been made available, Manglona said. "Rota's Legislative Delegation holds up public works projects. They frustrate work badly needed to stimulate our local economy, provide jobs, and fuel private business," Manglona said. "We have the money. We're ready to build. The architect and engineer bids are out. The Legislative Delegation creates a logjam."

Probation officers are law enforcers

The offense of resisting arrest has just been expanded to apply also to those who resist arrest by probation officers of the Office of Adult Probation Supervision. Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed House Bill 13-31 into law Friday, effectively correcting an oversight in Public Law 11-46, which does not actually classify probation officers as law enforcement officers. Under Public Law 3-71, resisting arrest by law enforcement officers is considered an offense. It does not, however, specifically refer to adult probation officers.

NEWS BRIEFS

BankGuam declares Q3 dividends

BankGuam Holding Company recently announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.125 per share at the board's regular meeting on Monday, Aug. 27, 2012.

The dividend will be paid on Sept. 28, 2012, to shareholders of record on Sept. 17, 2012.

"The continuing strength and solid performance of Bank of Guam has allowed us to pay dividends to our shareholders as we have since 1976," said president and board chair Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero. (PR)

BankPacific declares record earnings

BankPacific declared its best earnings in its 58 years at its annual shareholders meeting held Aug. 25.

As a result, record dividends were paid to the bank's holding company, BancPacific Financial Holding Company. The holding company in turn declared its highest dividend yet in the amount of \$0.46 per share, a 22-percent increase over last year's dividend.

"We thank our staff and management who have worked so hard to reach our record earnings and to allow us the ability to declare our dividends," said bank president Philip Flores. "They are the ones who keep our clients coming back.

And without good service, there is no bank.

With respect to the future, Flores responded, "We're bullish. The best lies ahead for our bank and for our communities." (BankPacific)

Memorial park calendar

The following are the September schedule of events at the American Memorial Park:

■ Sept. 7: First Friday Film, 6:30pm, *End of the Line*

■ Sept. 19, Wednesday: International Talk Like a Pirate celebration, 5pm

■ September, any day: Talk Like a Pirate Month

Curriculum based team-building programs

Call for reservations; 234-7207 Ext. 2020 Ranger Nancy Kelchner

■ Saturdays (Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22): Let's Move—movies and activities, 2pm – 6pm

Visitors Center open every day from 9am to 5pm, free. (PR)

MHS Class of '83 sets meeting

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join us with our general meeting this coming Friday, Sept. 14, 2012, at Beach Road Pavilion, Gapan, 7pm. If you have any question, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. (PR)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy birthday to my handsome nephew, Colin Iglesias, who celebrated his 4th birthday on Aug. 31, 2012! We love you and may you have many more special birthdays to come. Greetings come from Mommy, Jenny, and Alyberry.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Geneva Sabugo! Greetings coming from her sister, Jaiden, and her family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Liezel Cristobal! May you have many more blessings to come and hope you had fun on your very special day. We love you! Greetings come from your co-workers at Saipan World Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The 1st Northern Frontier Summit

*Pioneering Re-Development in the Northern Frontier:
Windows of Investment Opportunities*

September 6, 2012 • 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. • Fiesta Resort & Spa Azucena I & II



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant*Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.*

Politics worse than ants at family picnics

Because it's open season on the presidential election and almost the end of summer vacation, inflammatory rhetoric and family barbecues are both on "sizzle." Without careful monitoring by an attentive host, these can end in a conflagration. You have to learn precisely how to gauge temperatures and when to put a lid on it.

It's also true for the grill.

And unless every member of your family drinks directly from the same candidate's Kool Aid, you're going to witness a political argument in your household.

It's uncomfortable, right, when those you love start growling and reciting statistics that they've just invented? What should you do? Simply hold your tongs and prepare for battle?

After all, you just know somebody at your table is going to mention government spending, reproductive rights and gun control.

Then somebody else will counter with reproductive spending, gun rights and government control.

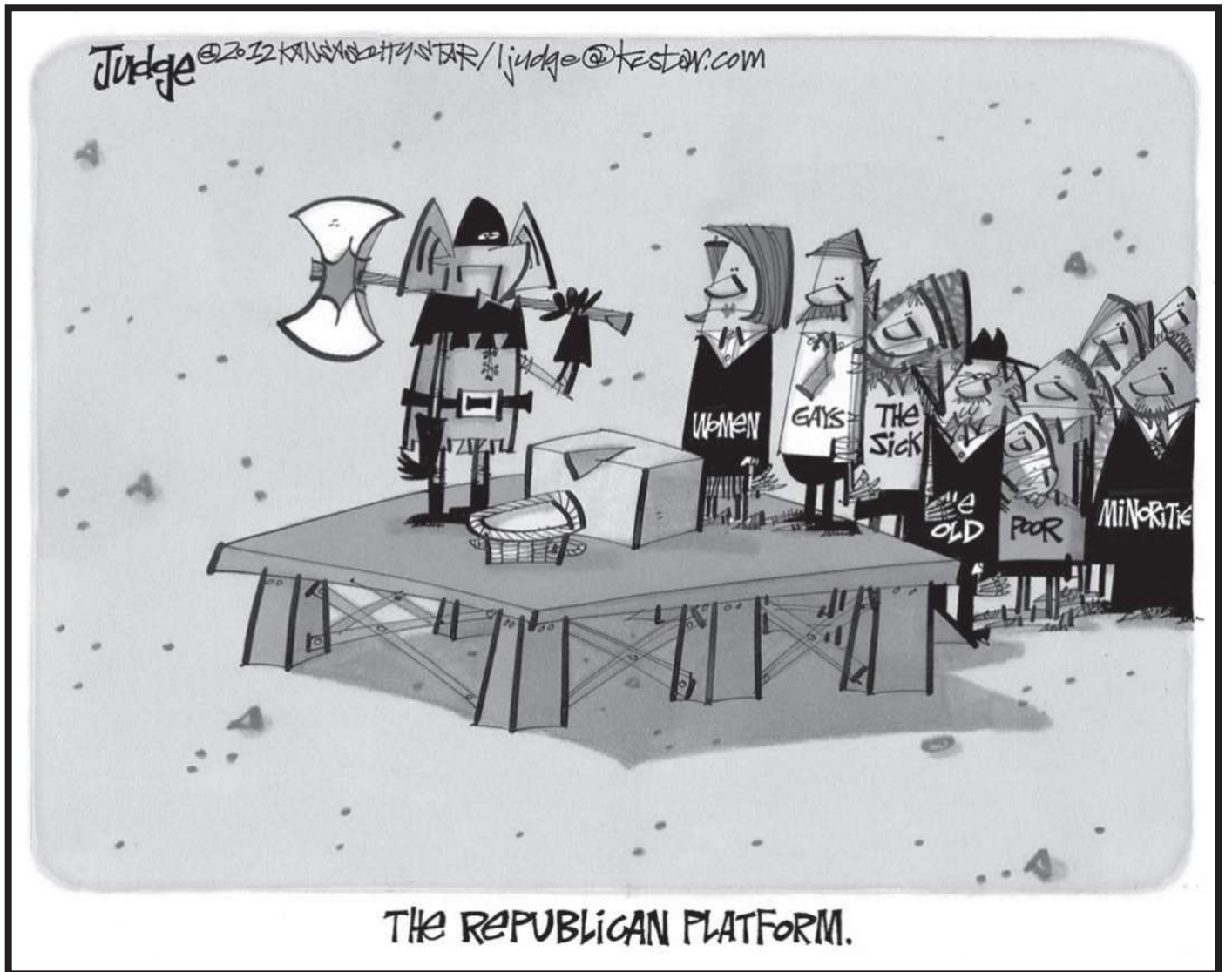
A third will rant about control spending, government rights and gun reproduction.

Mix-and-match those six words: Instant major argument incurring instant yet paradoxically long-lasting bad feelings! Notice how a phrase doesn't even have to make sense? "Gun Reproduction?" Yet I bet you didn't even blink because you were getting all riled up, just like the relatives.

And some clown will ask whether the U.S. representative who went skinny-dipping in the Sea of Galilee did it as an act of religious freedom, thereby spinning the whole crew off into yet another direction—until another bozo asks what counts as "legitimate rape." And then they'll be off, racing around another curve.

I suggest you take the following quiz to determine your Political Host Profile:

1. You'd be willing to get into a political argument if:
 - a. You were confident about the issues;
 - b. You were addressing a friendly group composed mostly of like-minded allies;
 - c. You were speaking to a kitty cat.
2. You think political discussions:
 - a. Are positive because they clarify issues and ultimately determine election outcomes;
 - b. Are negative because they cause strife and ultimately lead nowhere;
 - c. Are best when extremely loud because they keep judgmental members of your family from noticing that your teenager has so many piercings she looks like she fell into a tackle box.
3. Your vision of a civilized political conversation involves:
 - a. Respectful but passionate investigations of the most significant issues;
 - b. Considerate and well-balanced repartee fueled by wit and framed by historical perspective;
 - c. Periodic and vigilant checks for concealed weapons, in full cognizance of the fact that after enough beers, a melon-baller can become a concealed weapon.

See **POLITICS** on Next Page

The Golden Horde

The term in history usually refers to Mongolian eminence in the battlefield in the era of Genghis Khan's grandson Batu who went knocking on Europe's door by the Danube. The word "golden" may have referred to the sovereign's tent that was allegedly colored gold, though Russia at first referred to the Mongolian invaders as the Blue (western) and White (eastern) Hordes.

The word Golden was never used in the Mongolian and later Turkic Khanate, but adopted by Russian writers a century after. Sometimes, the color reference also alludes to the skin coloration of the folks from the steppes.

I had previously exaggerated in characterizing the number of women of Harbin as half-blondes and half-brunettes when I went by there a few weeks ago from Inner Mongolia. The exaggeration was not by much as, again, Lady Clairor's influence seems to prevail widely. When the university opened its doors to the incoming class and the returning second, third, and fourth upper "grades" (word used similar to "year" in the West), the hair coloring company was obviously doing a brisk business.

We are again enticing students in the upper grades to speak the English they learned the last 8-10 years. It is said that students already have a vocabulary of 4,000 words, which they recognize when reading, use in writing when they have to (mostly those aspiring to study further at the master's level), but hardly used in verbal discourse.

Upper grade students started a week earlier than the incoming first graders. When the Freshies came in, they had parents in tow, or rather, Mama and Papa wanted to make sure their only daughter or son had everything s/he needed to survive the lonesome but much sought-after life in higher education.

We take college life for granted in the United States, and most of democratic states, where the option to attend an institution of higher learning is pretty much a matter of choice and finances. One's subject of study is a personal preference though the influence of parents' careers, not unlike those among the Chinese, bears considerable influence on the choice. Not so in China, but we will reserve this for another reflection.

It's the end of summer and in one of my classes, a tall 6-footer on black laced corked elevated heels, wearing skimpy shorts that only Hefner's playmates might wear along Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, towered over everyone else. A Shanghai colleague once quipped that Chinese girls are built like the Great Wall, solid and sturdy, and flat on both sides. Our tall lass skipped the mold. What genetics might have been stingy in providing in the upper extremities, Victoria's Secret was only ready to accentuate!

The lady turned out to be a visiting sister who was at the university a year before, and dropped out to hold a job and support younger

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune*Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.*

sister through school. She could have been one of the elegant statuettes priming to be airline stewards seen along our university lanes, but this time, our tall one was just out relishing the feel of memory lane. Had deep regrets to find out she was only attending my session once this semester!

Our aside is not meant just to delight the memory of our sexist eye. It reveals the disparity that some folks have when referring with great fear the resurgence of the golden horde. To begin with, the Mongols are a minority in the emergent China of our present dispensation, and the only passion our predominantly Han population have is in the field of commerce where they find every other way a means to trade something that might be needed and wanted.

For a couple of years in the '70s, across the prairie of Saskatchewan in Canada, I was with a group of folk who promoted participatory methods in the social process through a program of community forum. I stopped in small towns of predominantly European migrants invariably encountering a Chinese restaurant. The food offering were seasoned to the customers' taste, so I would walk in at lunch eschewing the menu and asking for similar food "like they had for lunch." Surprised, the Sino-chefs were only too happy to comply.

Like the Ilocanos of the Philippines where the "frozen" culture is more evident in remote Hawaiian settlements than the Pea Eye villages that have sold out to current urban ethos, the China of Pearl Buck has pretty much disappeared following in the steps of Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou.

China's finances are heading the Wall Street way. Male enthusiasm follows Europe's football kicks, and NBA hook shots. The females evidently grew up with Barbie, in all her glorious hair colorations! HClinton who was in Beijing in '96 for the UN Women's Conference, and slated to visit this week after belligerent words at the Asian-Pacific gathering more appropriate for LPinetta than the former first lady, may tone down what is perceived as misplaced militancy.

If there is a golden horde in the offing, it will come in the form of the genial Panda, or a *Zhongguoren* (Chinese) version of today's computer animations where the young's talents seem bent to join C++ programming.

Oh, darn. I missed clicking a photo of my stunning one-time class lass!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Fiscal Cliff: Illusion or reality?

The recently concluded Republican National Convention in Tampa allotted time to current and former governors to explain their success stories on “wealth and jobs creation.” They explained how they’ve used it to eradicate the beastly deficit. They came into office inheriting millions of dollars in debts. Today, they are home free with surplus funds by the millions of dollars, too.

They cut taxes considerably (some 50 percent for corporate and 30 percent on personal income taxes) and improved or repealed punitive policies stifling growth of private industries. They did it successfully! State governments that failed to do so are still mired in humongous debts and deficit spending or have declared bankruptcy to exit the mess. No worries!

Here we should celebrate the unique self-accolade of plunging over Fiscal Cliff, unleashing the worst fiscal calamity in the CNMI’s developmental history! The headwinds of debt have long since blown away the green shoots of growth. Growth is gone. The CNMI is broke!

Eight years ago we embraced the same concept and had hope in the trust, respect, integrity, and vision of the incumbent administration to move things forward. Our people had confidence in the use of these virtues to improve the lot of families in the archipelago. It never came to fruition. It fizzled out!

Alarming debt crisis

We dropped it altogether in favor of employing the bosom buddies of “bwibwi” and “mañaña” syndromes to strengthen the foundation of complacency. It would have been a purpose driven agenda, enabling leadership to forge ahead and guarding the loss of direly needed foreign capital from a massive exodus. We ignored it! We gave it tertiary fiddle over an agenda to amass more power.

Revenue generation has declined severely by over \$116 million in recent past. It was a red flag indicating that we’re headed into fiscal cliff and calamity. But we seemed oblivious to the ominous warning and looked the other way.

Add the \$590 million new power generation contract, \$320 million owed the Fund, \$25 million debt, not to mention the likely total in deficit spending at year’s end. These are indicators showing in glaring fashion that the CNMI is in for a long bout of paralysis from debts and deficit spending.

Balancing the GOP tripwire on immigration

TAMPA, Fla.—The face of the Republican Party may be white and the hair graying, but the number of young, dynamic Hispanic leaders on display at the GOP convention is telling. Are they “window dressing,” as Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa claims?

He was part of a Democratic group that descended on Tampa during the Republican National Convention to make their case for President Obama. “You can’t just trot out a brown face or a Spanish surname and think people will embrace them,” he said. “This is a party with a platform calling for the self-deportation of 11 million people. Those 11 million have 5 million U.S. citizen-children and 1.5 million ‘Dreamers,’” referring to young adults who were brought to the U.S. as children by their undocumented parents.

All true, but here’s the thing, the numbers don’t lie. Hispanic Republicans outnumber Democrats at governor’s mansions 3-zip: Nevada’s Brian Sandoval, New Mexico’s Susana Martinez and Puerto Rico’s Luis Fortuno. In the U.S. Senate, Texas GOP candidate Ted Cruz may be joining Florida’s Marco Rubio.

For Democrats, Cuban-American Bob Menendez of New Jersey is the only statewide elected official, but Mexican-Americans constitute the national base of Latinos in the Democratic Party. What gives?

President Obama, who polls show has a 2-1 advantage over Republican Mitt Romney with Hispanic voters, shouldn’t take that ratio for granted. Florida and Nevada are battlegrounds that have elected Hispanics statewide. New Mexico, a blue-leaning state, has the gun-packing Mexican-American Martinez, the first woman elected as governor two years ago with the help of the GOP’s ultra-conservative tea party.

Republicans are hoping the sour economy and Obama’s progres-

Would there be sufficient funds for the hospital, schools, Medicaid, medical referral, and public safety as the needs of these agencies balloon over the next fiscal year? It’s a calamitous financial condition, its effects a forced hardship against governance all over.

Families deal with misery

Today, families painfully deal with reduction in the strength of the family pocketbooks as hospital fees spike, gasoline prices go up, basic cost of goods skyrocket; seesaw deals with Medicaid; loss of the first family home, and other family obligations. They know that a slide into unbearable misery is what awaits them at the end of the tunnel. It’s here! Paradise has, in fact, turned into a hellish hole.

I noticed the subtle shift in paradigms that led to my intuitive decision to resign as secretary of DPL three years ago. I wasn’t ready to rein in the magma-like diabolical negligence, arrogance, apathy, greed, and old-fashioned corruption. This administration has lost it all. Out the window goes the trust we had placed in its now failed leadership.

Too, I heard rumors that we told the RNC that the CNMI believes in God. Really? “The only just government is a government that delivers justice to its people,” stated a prominent Roman Catholic leader that delivered the benediction at the RNC.

Investment: Shall we recalibrate?

There’s no personal illusion the vital role and benefits of healthy foreign capital (investments) infusion here, especially in a critically listless economy. It’s the vehicle to enabling enhancement of opportunities for prosperity to set in.

We pretended ignorance in the loss of foreign capital as though we had nothing to do with it. We answered it with desperate and punitive measures that highlight humiliating ignorance.

It’s hard enough navigating the prohibitive cost of utilities. Additional piles of fees and taxes exacted the complete opposite—far less revenues—the net effect of half-cocked measures. Did policymakers understand the stifling and strangling effects of punitive policies against an already listless economy?

I still peep through news items to see which countries nearby have actually done things right, encouraging big investors to gravitate to their shores. Recently, an article in the *Japan Times* says that a

sive social agenda that supports gay marriage and abortion rights will help the GOP capture back some of the Latino vote it once had by aggressively courting Catholics, social conservatives and small business owners.

Mel Martinez, Florida’s first Hispanic elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004, told me Thursday that if the GOP can peel off 5 percentage points from Obama’s Hispanic vote in key states like Florida, Romney wins. George W. Bush captured over 40 percent of the Latino vote in 2004 with a message of “compassionate conservatism.”

As for the GOP’s “secure the borders and ship the illegals out” platform, Martinez shrugged: “Obviously it shows a current of discontent in the party, but party platforms have never controlled presidents.”

If platforms define presidencies, Martinez noted, then Obama would have already closed the Guantánamo base and pushed immigration reform—two issues that Obama campaigned on but failed to deliver.

Obama had a Democratic majority in Congress his first two years in office, but immigration reform wasn’t on the radar. Why? Easy, the economy. I doubt John McCain, had he been elected president, would have pushed immigration reform, not at the height of the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Truth is, both parties talk a good game on immigration reform, but as Martinez knows, they have their own domestic audiences to please. Martinez, who pushed a path toward U.S. citizenship during Bush’s second term, had to contend not only with obstructionists in the GOP but also Democrats carrying water for unions fearing cheap immigrant labor.

One of those Democrats was Obama, who offered what Martinez

servation based on research and critical thinking, not on what they just heard or read (although if that happened, it might just get too quiet and they’d notice your metallic kid).

5. You can keep a political discussion good-natured by making sure you:

a. Eavesdrop even as you attend to your duties as a host and, if you sense that tensions are becoming too strong, intervene with a new topic (“Want to hand me that melon baller, Irma?”) or a plate of particularly chewy peanut brittle;

b. Have a balanced number of guests representing each viewpoint so that one or two individuals don’t feel set-upon by members of the

By JOHN DELROSARIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



“growing number of Japanese companies have moved some of their headquarters or key functions from Japan to Singapore, viewing the city-state as a strategic location where they can oversee a new wave of investment in Southeast Asia.

“Toru Yoshikawa, associate professor of strategic management at Singapore Management University, says the trend reflects that Japanese companies are now turning their attention to the fast-growing markets of Southeast Asia now that China’s red-hot economy has begun to lose steam.

“The advantages often cited in Singapore are its strategic geographical location, an efficient infrastructure such as Internet connectivity, and one of the world’s busiest seaports.

“Another factor is the government’s pro-business policies, such as competitive taxes.

“Singapore has been slashing its corporate tax rate in recent years and at 17 percent has one of the lowest in Asia. Japan’s corporate tax rate is 30 percent.

“It also has a flexible immigration policy that makes it easier for companies to recruit staff from all over the world, while a bilingual education policy has ensured a workforce that can speak not only English but also Chinese and other local languages.”

You quiz why not the CNMI? What can you expect when we’ve created a very bad business climate or environment with a parade of fees and taxes that encouraged the exodus of foreign capital? Would someone pony up some smarts to reverse this very debilitating economic condition that has resulted in fiscal meltdown and calamity never before seen in our developmental history?

If serious work doesn’t go into this most substantive issue, the CNMI would see a quick trip into severe fiscal calamity until the entire government operations comes to total paralysis.

By MYRIAM MARQUEZ

The Miami Herald

Myriam Marquez is the editorial-page editor for The Miami Herald. Readers may send her email at mmarquez@miamiherald.com.



called a “poison pill” amendment to the immigration reform bill that would have removed temporary workers—a big issue for big business, particularly agriculture—from the equation. Nor can Obama deny that there have been more deportations under his watch than under any other president.

As former Gov. Jeb Bush pointed out at a Hispanic Leadership Network event here, “The future of our party is to reach out consistently, to have a tone that is open and hospitable to people who share values. ... The conservative cause would be the governing philosophy as far as the eye could see—and that’s doable if we just stop acting stupid.”

In the tense tripwire between far-sighted vision and knee-jerk action there’s former California Gov. Pete Wilson. He stood this week to deliver his state’s votes for Romney. Wilson compared the former Massachusetts governor to the GOP’s standard bearer, Ronald Reagan.

Except Reagan made a strong case for amnesty for illegal immigrants, as both an economic plus and a compassionate stand. Wilson was booted by Latino voters for pushing through the worst anti-immigrant laws in modern times—a lesson worth remembering.

oppositions;

c. Refill the glasses and plates only of those who keep their voices down and their comments polite. It worked for Pavlov and it can work for your family!

How did you do? There’s no way to pass, so I know how you did. You want to run away? Might work!

The other solution is to avoid your family until after the election. Blame it on me. Although it seems drastic, remember that by Nov. 7 family conversation will once again be safe for democracy. And maybe our great, healthy and lasting democracy will be safe from family conversation.

POLITICS

From Page 10

4. You believe nastiness in political disagreements can be avoided if:

a. Everyone remembers that the opposition also has in mind the best interests of our country;

b. Everyone keeps in mind that often what we’re being fed as the “truth” by the media and by extremists is composed of lies, lies and damned lies;

c. If everyone kept quiet until he or she had an original idea or ob-

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 5 to 10 kt.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Showers	▲84 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲87 ▼80

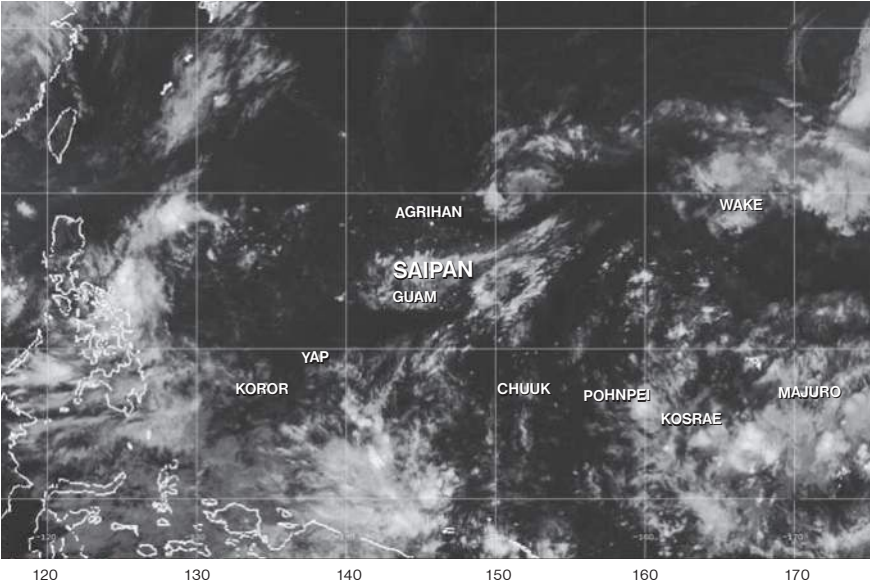
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲61 ▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲81 ▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼75
London	Sunny	▲69 ▼52
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲63 ▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼75
New York	Showers	▲80 ▼73
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲91 ▼76
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▼53
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲81 ▼67
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲79 ▼66
Salem	Sunny	▲87 ▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲78 ▼60
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲91 ▼76
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼75

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:38 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
11:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:44 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
11:13 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 13N130E across Yap state to a weak circulation near 3N149E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are mainly southwest of the trough axis across the Republic of Palau. An upper-low is centered at 21N152E. An associated surface trough stretches across the Mariana Islands from 14N142E to 15N150E then northeastward to 25N168E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Mariana Islands are within 100 miles of a line from 14N143E to 14N150E. A few thunderstorms are near 20N152E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Wake Island are within 200 miles of a line from 20N165E to 25N180. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers ad a few thunderstorms across Kosrae, Butaritari and the Marshall Islands between the equator and 10N from 160E to beyond the date line.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:27 PM	9:39 AM
Thursday	10:10 PM	10:29 AM
Friday	10:56 PM	11:18 AM
Saturday	11:43 PM	12:08 PM
Sunday		12:57 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 14, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/120	2:20am	8:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z119/606	9:30am	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z606/120	2:50am	8:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z119/606	9:30am	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				0Z704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
0Z604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
				FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Toys R Us waives fee for layaway program

WAYNE, N.J. (AP)—Toys R Us is making it easier for shoppers to use its layaway program ahead of the crucial holiday season, waiving its service fee and minimum purchase requirement beginning Tuesday.

As brick-and-mortar stores face increasingly tough competition from online retailers, chains like Toys R Us, Wal-Mart, Sears and others have been expanding services such as layaway to draw customers into stores. Retailers will be pulling out all the stops for customers as the intensely competitive holiday season approaches, which can account for as much as 40 percent of annual sales.

Last month, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said it was expanding its own layaway program after seeing high customer demand for layaway during last year's winter holiday season. Its new program will last a

month longer than last year's and will include more items than the toys and electronics featured last year. But there is still a minimum purchase requirement and a \$15 fee for an open account.

Toys R Us, in contrast, is waiving the upfront service fee for layaway orders created in store from Sept. 4 through Oct. 31. After Oct. 31, a \$5 service fee will apply. Also, there will be no minimum purchase price. Customers have until Dec. 16 to pick up their orders.

"We continue to look for ways to help our customers stretch their budgets, and by taking advantage of this free layaway option, they can make a series of small payments over time, as they begin to think about what might be on their children's holiday wish lists," said Troy Rice, executive vice president for stores and services at Toys R Us U.S.

Layaway became popular during the Great Depression. Before the most recent recession, easy credit had made it largely a thing of the past. But when credit dried up and the job market soured, Sears Holdings Corp., Toys R Us and other merchants added back or expanded the service.

Toys R Us introduced its layaway program in stores in 2009 for bigger items like bikes, swing sets, and play kitchens, and has added more categories each year. In 2011, layaway was expanded to include all items at Toys R Us and most items at Babies R Us.

Toys R Us, based in Wayne, N.J., has 874 Toys R Us and Babies R Us stores in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, as well as 625 international stores and 145 licensed stores. It also operates the FAO Schwarz store in New York.

China manufacturing weakens, services grow

BEIJING (AP)—China's manufacturing decelerated further in August while construction and services grew at a slow rate, according to two surveys Monday, adding to conflicting signals about whether the country's slowdown is bottoming out.

HSBC Corp. said its purchasing managers' index fell to 47.6 from July's 49.3 on a 100-point scale on which numbers below 50 represent a contraction. It was the tenth month of decline and the lowest reading since more than three years ago in March 2009.

Manufacturing companies shed jobs at their fastest rate in 41 months, HSBC said. New orders and export orders also declined.

"Beijing must step up policy easing to stabilize growth and foster job market conditions," HSBC's China economist, Hongbin Qu, said in a statement.

Also Monday, the National Bureau of Statistics said its index of non-manufacturing activity rose to 56.3 from July's 55.6. A sub-index for construction activity rose to 61.1 from July's 60.4. The index also covers industries such as air travel and telecommunications.

China's economic growth fell to a three-year low of 7.6 percent in the second quarter. Analysts expect a rebound by early next year but corporate profits and other indicators have fallen despite government stimulus measures.

Beijing has cut interest rates twice since early June and is pumping money into the economy through higher investment by state companies. Authorities have resisted calls for more aggressive measures after the huge stimulus in response to the 2008 global crisis fueled inflation and a wasteful building boom.

Weak corporate profits are likely to hurt investment, a key pillar of Beijing's recovery plan, meaning the government might have to step up its own spending, analysts say.

The Cabinet minister in charge of China's planning agency said last week that growth was "stabilizing at a slow pace" but gave no details or a time frame for a recovery.

Premier Wen Jiabao and other officials have promised more support for struggling exporters but there is little Beijing can do to boost foreign demand amid Europe's debt crisis and a sluggish U.S. recovery.

A separate survey released Saturday by the government-authorized China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing also showed August manufacturing weakening. The group's PMI fell to 49.2 points—its lowest level to date—from July's 50.1.

of Gulf of Mexico production. About 100,000 barrels per day of production was restored between Sunday and Monday. (AP)

Vodafone, Kuwait's Zain plan Mideast partnership

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Vodafone Group has signed a deal with the Kuwaiti telecom Zain Group that it says will significantly extend the British telecommunications giant's reach in the Middle East. The partnership agreement announced Monday calls for Vodafone to work with Zain divisions in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan and Iraq, and is aimed in part at improving network coverage and trimming costs. Vodafone already has Mideast operations in Egypt and

Qatar. Financial details weren't disclosed. The companies say they will not be taking equity stakes in one another.

Czechs plan temporary ban on shale exploration

PRAGUE (AP)—The Czech government has proposed a temporary ban on shale gas exploration until a new law is passed that would address extracting the new energy source. Environment Minister Tomas Chalupa said Monday the current law is insufficient and a moratorium till the middle of 2014 would give authorities time to propose legislation that would "take into account the current technologies and their environmental impact." The government is expected to discuss the proposal next month.

Nation

Convention eve: Obama consoles storm victims

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—President Barack Obama consoled victims of Hurricane Isaac along the Gulf Coast on Monday and stoked the enthusiasm of union voters in the industrial heartland, blending a hard political sell with a softer show of sympathy on the eve of the Democratic National Convention.

At times like these, "nobody's a Democrat or a Republican, we're all just Americans looking out for one another," the president said after inspecting damage inflicted by the storm and hugging some of its victims. He was flanked by local and state officials of both parties as he spoke.

There was nothing nonpartisan about his earlier appearance in Toledo, Ohio. There, the president said Republican challenger Mitt Romney should be penalized for "unnecessary roughness" on the middle class and accused him in a ringing Labor Day speech of backing higher taxes for millions after opposing the 2009



President Barack Obama walks past debris on the sidewalks as he tours the Bridgewood neighborhood in LaPlace, La., in the Saint John the Baptist Parish, with local officials to survey the ongoing response and recovery efforts to Hurricane Isaac, Monday, Sept. 3, 2012.

auto industry bailout.

Obama's trip to LaPlace, La., was a televised interlude in the rough and tumble of the political campaign, four days after Romney accepted his party's presidential nomination at the GOP Convention in Tampa, Fla., and three days before the president is nominated by Democratic delegates in Charlotte.

Unlike Obama, Romney made no mention of federal

aid in his own trip to Louisiana last Friday showing concern and support.

First lady Michelle Obama was already in the Democratic convention city as her husband spent his day blending the work of president and candidate.

He doesn't arrive in North Carolina until later in the week, after concluding a slow circuit of campaign stops in battleground states and the trip to Louisiana.

Isaac gives drought-stricken farmers brief respite

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Several days of rain have given farmers in the nation's midsection a welcome break from irrigating and hauling water for livestock as they contend with the worst drought in the U.S. in decades.

The remnants of Hurricane Isaac dropped several inches of rain on wide areas of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri as the storm trudged north. Some spots got more than a half-foot of rain.

For most farmers, the rain came too late to make a difference in their year. Corn farmers have been harvesting for weeks, and soybeans are far enough along that the rain won't significantly improve

their quality or growth.

Some farmers had rushed to bring in crops before the storm, fearing strong winds or even flash flooding could destroy what they had managed to salvage from drought.

In Arkansas, where farmers have been struggling with triple-digit temperatures and little rain, Robby Bevis, 35, saw the storm knock down several of his 150 acres of rice. "I hate to see any of it down, but that's not as bad of percentage as what it could have been," he said.

The 3 inches of rain that fell on Bevis's fields between Scott and Lonoke also cut him a welcome break from watering his soybeans. He had been plan-

ning to irrigate before the remnants of Isaac sloshed through the region late last week.

He figured the rain might have saved him \$10 or \$15 an acre, although "the majority of the expense was throughout the summer."

In Illinois, Kenneth Metcalf said the storm put some water back in his well, relieving him of the burden of having to buy and haul in hundreds of gallons of water each day for his 160 head of cattle.

But Metcalf, 75, said he doubts the break will last long as the storm's last clouds burn off and higher temperatures return, baking the area east of Springfield where he also grows corn and soybeans.

Labor Day marked with parades, political speeches

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Parades, picnics and politicians celebrated the American worker on Labor Day, with President Barack Obama seeking votes from Ohio union members and rivals for Senate seats marching in Massachusetts and Virginia.

But for many, Monday's holiday was a last chance to enjoy a final summer cookout, roller coaster ride or day at the beach. Or perhaps even a stroll from Michigan's Upper Peninsula to its Lower Peninsula—along the longest suspension bridge in the Western Hemisphere.

Politics was a big part of Labor Day, the time when much of the public usually starts to pay attention to the campaigns.

Terence Glaze, a 47-year-old firefighter, waited to catch a glimpse of Obama's motor-

cade at the president's speech in Toledo, but his two young sons were eager to get to the movies instead.

"It's a time for the family to be together and just spend time with one another. That's the most important aspect," Glaze said.

"But I do also think about the sacrifices unions have made, as it relates to wages, as it relates to safety issues," he added.

At his speech to members of the United Auto Workers and United Steelworkers, Obama noted his decision to rescue automakers General Motors and Chrysler in 2009—a move opposed by his rival, Republican nominee Mitt Romney.

"If America had thrown in the towel like that, GM and Chrysler wouldn't exist to-

day," Obama said. "The suppliers and the distributors that get their business from these companies would have died off, too. Then even Ford could have gone down as well."

Romney supporter Kenneth Harbin, a member of the University of Toledo College Republicans, waved signs for his candidate outside the rally and scoffed at Obama's decision to visit the labor stronghold.

"He's gotta come home and say, 'Here's what I did for you. Now here's what you can do for me,'" Harbin said.

Getting union voters in Ohio to turn out in November will be crucial for Democrats. About 650,000 workers in the state—or 13 percent—are union members. The national average is just less than 12 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil and gas production ramping up after Isaac

The nation's oil and gas hub along the Gulf Coast is slowly coming back to life in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac. Off-shore oil platforms are beginning to ramp up production as crews are returning. Refineries are beginning to restart units as power is restored and floodwaters are cleared out. While a substantial amount of oil and gas production remains off line, production is coming back as expected. No major damage to oil platforms or refineries have been reported, and no further storm-related spikes in energy prices are expected. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said Monday that 800,000 barrels per day of oil production remained offline, 58 percent

Asia

Clinton urges ASEAN unity on South China Sea

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Southeast Asian states must present a united front to the Chinese in dealing with territorial disputes in the South China Sea to “literally calm the waters,” U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday.

And she urged all involved to make “meaningful progress” on a process for ending conflicts “without coercion, without intimidation and certainly without the use of force” by November.

In Indonesia’s capital before heading to China, Clinton offered strong U.S. support for a regionally endorsed six-point plan to ease rising tensions by implementing a code of conduct for all claimants to disputed islands. Jakarta is the headquarters of the Association of South East Asian Nations, and Clinton pressed the group to insist that China agree to a formal multilateral mechanism to reduce short-term risks of conflict and ultimately come to final settlements over sovereignty.

The stance puts the U.S. squarely at odds with China, which has become increasingly assertive in pressing its territorial claims with its smaller neighbors and wants the disputes to be resolved individually with each country, giving it greater leverage than dealing with a bloc.

Clinton made the case in



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, talks with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono after their meeting at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012.

Tuesday meetings with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and ASEAN secretary general Surin Pitsuwan, a day after she delivered the same message to Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa.

“The United States has a national interest, as every country does, in the maintenance of peace and stability, respect for international law, freedom of navigation, unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea,” Clinton told reporters at a news conference with Natalegawa.

“The United States does not take a position on competing territorial claims ... but we believe the nations of the region should work collaboratively to resolve disputes without coercion, without intimidation and certainly without the use of force,” she said. “That is why we encourage ASEAN and China to make meaningful progress toward finalizing a comprehensive code of conduct in order to establish rules of the road and clear procedures for peacefully addressing disagreements.”

Feuds a concern as children inherit Moon’s empire

GAPYEONG, South Korea (AP)—Unification Church patriarch Sun Myung Moon leaves behind children who have been groomed to lead a religious movement famous for its mass weddings and business interests—if family feuds don’t bring down the empire.

Moon, the charismatic and controversial founder of the church, died Monday at age 92 at a church-owned hospital near his home in Gapyeong County, northeast of Seoul, two weeks after being hospitalized with pneumonia, church officials said.

Flags flew at half-staff at a Unification Church in Seoul as followers trickled in, some wiping away tears as they wondered what would happen to a movement defined for decades by the

man who founded it in 1954.

The Rev. Moon and wife Hak Ja Han have 10 surviving children and in recent years, the aging Moon had been handing power on the church’s religious, charitable and business entities to them.

But there have been reports of family rifts. One son sued his mother’s missionary group in 2011, demanding the return of more than \$22 million he claimed was sent without his consent from a company he runs to her charity. His mother’s group eventually returned the money after court mediation.

Church officials said the son, known as Preston, is no longer in charge of any church operations.

Moon’s death could expose

further rifts within the church, said Kim Heung-soo, who teaches the history of Christianity at Mokwon University in the central city of Daejeon.

“There is a high possibility that internal discord will deepen,” Kim said.

The church has amassed dozens of businesses in the United States, South Korea and even North Korea, including hotels, a ski resort, sports teams, schools, universities and hospitals.

One expert said the church’s business prospects appear brighter than its religious future. Tark Ji-il, a professor of religion at Busan Presbyterian University, described the church not as a religious organization but as a corporation made up of people with similar religious beliefs.

Philippine government has now obtained waivers from employers. Del Rosario said in a statement Tuesday that President Benigno Aquino III wants to ensure Filipinos’ safety and repatriate as many of them as possible. Del Rosario left for Syria late Monday.

North Korea says typhoon killed 48, damaged homes

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea says a typhoon that hit the peninsula

last week killed 48 people and left 21,000 homeless. The update from the official Korean Central News Agency said Monday that Typhoon Bolaven also left more than 50 people injured or missing, damaged 50,000 hectares (123,550 acres) of farmland and destroyed or inundated 6,700 houses. The typhoon also killed 15 people in South Korea. The North is still recovering from floods since June that have killed 170 people and damaged thousands of homes.

World

Syria says no dialogue before it crushes rebels

BEIRUT (AP)—The Syrian regime said Monday there will be no dialogue with the opposition before the army crushes the rebels, the latest sign that President Bashar Assad is determined to solve the crisis on the battlefield even if many more of his people have to pay with their lives.

The statement comes a day after activists reported that August was the bloodiest month since the uprising began in March 2011.

“There will be no dialogue with the opposition prior to the Syrian army’s imposition of security and stability in all parts of the country,” Information Minister Omran al-Zoebe told reporters at a news conference in Damascus.

The opposition has long rejected any talks with the regime until Assad is removed from power.

Muhieddine Lathkani, an opposition figure based in Britain, responded to the minister’s comments by saying “the key to any dialogue will be the departure of Assad and dismantling of the regime’s security agencies that committed all these crimes.”

Lathkani told The Associ-

ated Press by telephone that after that happens, there could be a dialogue.

Earlier in the day, the new U.N. envoy to Syria acknowledged that brokering an end to the civil war will be a “very, very difficult” task.

Activists on Sunday said some 5,000 people were killed in August, the highest toll in the 17-month-old uprising and more than three times the monthly average. At the same time, the U.N. children’s fund, UNICEF, said 1,600 were killed last week alone, also the highest figure for the entire revolt.

The two major activists groups raised their total death toll for the entire revolt to at least 23,000 and as high as 26,000.

The civil war witnessed a major turning point in August when Assad’s forces began widely using air power for the first time to try to put down the revolt. The fighting also reached Syria’s largest city, Aleppo, which had been relatively quiet for most of the uprising.

Last week, Assad said in an interview that his armed forces will need time to defeat the rebels, an acknowledgement that his regime is struggling to

defeat the tenacious rebels and another indication that the civil war will be even more drawn out and bloody.

In the latest violence on Monday, activists said more than 100 people were killed—many of them in two air raids that knocked out large parts of buildings in the northern province of Aleppo. Government warplanes bombed the town of Al-Bab killing at least 19 people and the Aleppo neighborhood of Myasar where 10 people, including four children, were killed.

The two main activist groups, the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and the Local Coordination Committees, said the airstrikes targeted a residential area in the northern town of al-Bab, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the Turkish border. The Observatory said 19 people were killed in the air raid; the LCC put the death toll at 25.

An amateur video posted online showed men frantically searching for bodies in the rubble of a white building smashed into a pile of debris. The authenticity of the video could not be independently verified.

4 shot at South African gold mine in latest unrest

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—South African police and security guards fired rubber bullets and tear gas Monday at sacked gold miners who were attacking colleagues to block them from working, the mine owner said. Police said four people were wounded at the mine that used to be partially owned by the president’s nephew.

The clash at the Gold Fields mine east of Johannesburg, reported by police and Neal Fro-neman, the CEO of Gold One International, was the latest violence to hit South Africa’s mines in months of unrest.

Company spokesman Sven Lunsche said some 12,000 of the company’s workers “continue to engage in an unlawful and unprotected strike” that began Wednesday. He said it involved an internal dispute between local union leaders and members of the National Union of Mineworkers, the

country’s largest union.

After apartheid ended in 1994, South Africa pressed to share the country’s vast mineral wealth with its impoverished black majority. But the hoped-for result has not occurred. A small black elite has become billionaires off mining while most South Africans continue to struggle against mounting unemployment, deeper poverty and a widening gap between rich and poor that makes the country one of the most unequal on Earth.

The mine where the violence took place Monday has previous business ties to relatives of Nelson Mandela and President Jacob Zuma—and was the site where firebrand politician Julius Malema, an avowed enemy of Zuma, pledged last week to make the nation’s mines ungovernable.

South Africa’s mining unrest reached a bloody climax

on Aug. 16 when police shot 112 striking workers, killing 34 of them, at a platinum mine at Marikana, northwest of Johannesburg. The state violence was reminiscent of apartheid days and has seriously damaged the government’s image.

Outrage at the police killings was exacerbated by prosecutors, who last week charged some 270 miners arrested at the scene with the murders and attempted murders of their striking co-workers—people who were killed by police. The National Prosecuting Authority was forced to retract Sunday, withdrawing the charges made under an apartheid-era law.

On Monday, 91 arrested miners were released, much to the joy of their ululating and singing family members and supporters. But there were tears for the many more who remained in custody.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH steps up repatriations from Syria

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario has flown to Syria to speed up the repatriation of more than 1,000 Filipino workers trying to escape the increasing violence there. Some of the obstacles the government faced until recently was having to pay refunds to Syrian employers for unfinished contracts and fees levied by the Syrian government. Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said Tuesday that the

WORLD BRIEFS

Madagascar: 67 alleged cattle rustlers killed

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP)—Madagascar’s police chief says villagers attacked by cattle rustlers turned on the alleged thieves and killed 67 of them. Gen. Bruno Razafindrakoto told The Associated Press that about 100 cattle thieves on Friday attacked three villages near Fort-Dapuhin, more than 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from Antananarivo, the capital of this Indian Ocean island. He said

villagers armed with axes, spears and machetes “defended their belongings” and killed at least 67 of the attackers. Razafindrakoto said Monday that he has opened an investigation.

Israel wants Hitler clothing shop in India renamed

NEW DELHI (AP)—Israel has complained to the Indian state of Gujarat about a menswear shop there named “Hitler.” Israel’s consul general to the city of

Mumbai, Orna Sagiv, says she asked state officials Monday to intervene to help get the store’s name changed. She said she tried to explain to them “how grave and serious the issue is.” The shop opened last month with a huge sign reading “Hitler” and a Nazi swastika inside the dot in the letter “i.” The owner said he didn’t know about Hitler’s history when the name was suggested by his partner, whose stern grandfather was nicknamed Hitler.

Focus

HENGYANG, China (AP)—Dr. Chen Yuna had just eaten her lunch and was seated at her desk updating patients' medical records when a masked man entered her office. He pulled out a dagger and stabbed her 28 times in her neck, chest, stomach and elsewhere. Then he left her to die in a pool of blood.

He knew the hospital well enough to slip out easily: Before he became Chen's killer, the man had been her patient.

Chen's murder in central Hunan province is one of thousands of violent attacks in recent years by patients that have crystallized public discontent with China's health care system, the largest in the world.

Despite an injection of more than \$240 billion in government funding into health care over the past three years, the doctor-patient relationship has continued to break down. Doctors are overworked and underpaid, and many push drug sales or charge extra for services such as deliveries to make more money. Patients are faced with high medical expenses, brief consultations and often poor quality care.

The government's attempts to fix the system may even have made some things worse. Its rapid expansion of insurance coverage means that more patients can pay for health services, which are mostly provided by public hospitals. But even as demand has gone up, doctors and funding are still in short supply. Hospitals are often scenes of disarray, with beds overflowing out of wards into corridors and shouting matches between patients and medical staff.

The anger built up over years is now exploding into violence, with doctors, nurses and interns around the country stabbed, punched or otherwise assaulted by patients or their relatives over the past year. A few have died. Although official data is unavailable, state media reports say there were more than 17,000 "violent incidents" at health care facilities nationwide in 2010, a 70 percent increase from 2004.

In a top Beijing hospital in September last year, a 54-year-old cancer patient stabbed a doctor 17 times after a dispute. In the northeastern city of Harbin in March, a 17-year-old patient with a spinal disease attacked doctors with a fruit knife, leading to the death of an intern. One month later in Beijing, a man identified as a patient stabbed two doctors.

"China's doctors are in crisis," the British medical journal *Lancet* said in a May editorial urging a government inquiry into the spate of violence and solutions to ending it.

The story of Chen's murder is told through interviews with Chen's husband, her co-workers, a patient and police, and supported by photos and reports from the local health bureau and state media. The alleged assailant's family could not be reached despite numerous attempts; very little is publicly known about him. He has been charged with murder.

Chen grew up surrounded by the medical profession. As a child in the late 1970s, she lived on a hospital compound with her parents, who both worked as doctors. Many of her relatives were also doctors.

Around her, however, the world of Chinese health care was changing.

When the Communist Party took control in 1949, it created a centrally planned medical system that ran large facilities in cities and deployed barefoot doctors into the countryside to vaccinate children and promote hygiene. But by the early 1980s, free-

China's chaotic health care drives patient attacks



A large number of patients register to consult the doctors at a hospital Friday, Aug. 24, 2012 in Shanghai.

AP

market reforms were virtually dismantling the health care system.

The government cut funding to hospitals. They were allowed to make hefty profits from new drugs and technologies instead, and doctors' bonuses were tied to these revenues. So doctors had an incentive to sell more drugs and tests even if they weren't needed, and expenses skyrocketed.

Chen graduated in medicine from a local university in 2001 and joined her father at the Hengyang No. 3 People's Hospital. She kept journals with detailed medical notes about her patients and a Chinese-to-English glossary of medication names in the back.

Chen specialized in tuberculosis because most of her patients suffered from it—including the man who would later kill her.

By many accounts, Chen, 34, loved her profession and worked hard. "She was very warm, very caring," said Jian Hongjiang, who was Chen's patient when he was hospitalized in June for TB. "She came to see me every day and always asked me if I was feeling better. I was shocked when I heard what happened to her."

Chen, like most doctors, rarely had public holidays off and worked many weekends. Her phone rang daily with calls from patients with questions and requests.

One of the last text messages she sent was to her department head on April 21, when she was out of town with her husband. "I've already accounted for my patients, their conditions are all stable," she wrote. Some days she came home from work and remarked: "Today was such a hard day."

Chen's workload was not unusual. In a survey released February of more than 10,000 doctors by the online medical network Dingxiangyuan, a third said they saw more than 50 patients a day, some more than 100.

Hard work and low government-set salaries have made the medical profession one of the least popular in China. Entry-level doctors in major cities earn about 3,000 yuan (\$500) a month, doctors say, about the average income of university graduates despite more work and more risk. In grassroots facilities like the hospital Chen worked in,

salaries are even lower. After 11 years, Chen was earning only around 3,500 yuan (\$550) a month, more if she saw more patients.

The low wages have led to widespread and well-known corruption, which fuels hatred of doctors. Many users of popular online microblogs have cheered the attacks on doctors as rightful punishment for corrupting the health care system.

The April stabbing was not Chen's first encounter with violence. In September, a patient threatened her with a knife over a dispute about him cuddling with his girlfriend in front of other patients in the ward.

Terrified, she called her husband, Liao Chongzhou, who rushed to the hospital. Police took statements but the patient was discharged without incident.

Liao did not think too much of it. "This kind of thing happens all the time in grassroots hospitals," said Liao, who used to be a doctor too until he quit last year, fed up with what he described as overly demanding patients.

It was only after reports of doctors being severely attacked elsewhere earlier this year that he called his wife's hospital and suggested they beef up security. Liao told a hospital official: "If something happens, it will be too late for regrets."

Meanwhile, Wang Yunsheng was growing more frustrated by the day.

A decade ago, Wang left his rural home in Hunan at 15 for the prosperous south to work to help support his family. Last year, while doing construction in Guangdong province, he started coughing incessantly. Several hospital trips later, he was diagnosed with tuberculosis.

The 25-year-old migrant worker took two courses of medication and showed signs of improvement, but suffered from insomnia and a rash on his arms, possibly as side effects.

In July last year, Wang went home to Hengyang and turned to the No. 3 hospital for help. He spent 28 days in the hospital and at least 8,600 yuan (\$1,350)—about one and a half times the annual income of a farmer. He was told that he had drug-resistant TB that is hard to cure.

About half his hospital expenses were covered by insurance, one report says, but drug-resistant TB is expensive to treat and would have cost him tens of thousands of yuan over the next few years. With a family to feed, medical bills were the last things he needed.

In general, the government's expansion of health insurance coverage—from 30 percent of the population in 2003 to 96 percent last year—has made it more affordable for people to seek health care. As one result, hospital admissions have surged by two and a half times over the same period. At many top city hospitals, patients line up overnight for consultation tickets or are gouged by scalpers for them.

"The supply cannot catch up with demand, you have long waiting times, doctors on average spend five minutes with patients and don't have time to communicate well with their patients and that creates problems," said Yanzhong Huang, an expert on China's health reforms at the Council on Foreign Relations.

At the same time, insurance benefits are still too shallow to cover major illnesses such as cancer, HIV/AIDS or TB, described by health economists as "catastrophic" because treatment often wipes out family savings. Spending on health care as a share of household expenditure in China has gone up by 2.3 percent a year in the past few years, according to a *Lancet* study in March.

Because patients are spending a lot, their expectations increase, doctors say.

"Part of the violence against health workers is because people don't know the limitations of medicine and medical care and they expect that if they pay, the cure will come," said Sarah Barber, a health expert at the World Health Organization's office in China. "I think you have a gap between the expectations and what can realistically be achieved."

Wang believed that doctors were lying to him when they called his condition hard to treat, and that he developed drug resistance due to bad treatment.

He grew despondent. His anger zeroed in on his main physician: Chen.

April 28 began like any other day. Chen started a 24-hour shift at 8 a.m. by checking on her patients at the

decades-old, rundown hospital, in a forested area in the rural outskirts of Hengyang. The three nurses on duty on her floor left to check on patients. Chen was alone.

Wang walked into her office unnoticed around midday.

Ten minutes later, nurses found Chen lying on the floor bleeding to death. Bloody footprints marked the corridor and a staircase leading to the ground floor.

Liao, her husband, was returning to his office from lunch when his in-laws tried to reach him. He rushed to the hospital, but police would not let him near the crime scene. Finally, they told him she was in a morgue.

There, Liao stroked his wife's face and thought how she looked like she was just asleep. Then he examined the wounds on her neck, heart, liver, back, chest and left arm. He fell to the floor.

"At that time, I lost control, I could not feel my limbs," Liao said. "I studied medicine and so I'm used to seeing things like this, but this is a person I loved... I could not take it."

The next day, several dozen former schoolmates joined him in a protest at the hospital over the safety of medical staff. They blocked the entrance, strung up a banner across the gate and set up a picture of the slain doctor.

A passing taxi driver had seen a man with bloodied hands outside the hospital, and helped police identify Wang from a list of Chen's patients. They arrested Wang near a train station with a dagger in his possession. Police said he was angry and asked why they did not take his side against the doctor.

Now the hospital has set up a security post in the middle of the sprawling compound, though three guards on duty were napping or otherwise not watching during a recent visit by *The Associated Press*.

"It can be said that my wife's life has been given up in exchange for a security post," Liao remarked.

Hospital officials reached by phone said they had no comment on the attack on Chen or the state of security at the facility.

A few days after Chen was murdered, the Health Ministry and Public Security Ministry issued a joint notice saying people who threaten, insult or injure medical staff or who bring flammable or explosive materials into hospitals will be held criminally responsible. People are also barred from setting up mourning halls or burning funeral money in these facilities—common methods of protest. Police posts have been set up in hospitals across the country, while doctors in some cities have been trained in self-defense.

The government has also announced a code of conduct barring doctors from seeking bribes and accepting kickbacks from medical companies. It is also testing different models of funding at many hospitals to reduce reliance on drug profits, but the situation is not expected to improve soon.

For Liao, the death of his wife was "like the sky had fallen." He tells their 6-year-old daughter that her mother is in heaven getting treatment for an illness; one day when she is older, he says, he will tell her the truth.

He waits for the day the killer is put on trial and expects the maximum sentence.

"For the murderer, he should repay the life he has taken with his own life, and that should serve as a lesson for others," Liao said. "It should serve as a wake-up call for patients and doctors... Because if this kind of thing happens again, it will mean that my wife died in vain."

Campus Life

Obama, GOP duel over rising college expenses

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama would make tax credits for college expenses permanent and expand Pell grants for students from lower-earning families. The Republican team of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan would emphasize the need to curb rising tuitions and federal education spending that are burdening families and the government.

The different approaches to coping with growing college costs highlight one way that Obama and the GOP ticket are competing for young voters. This important group leaned heavily toward Obama in 2008 and still prefers him, according to polls, though less decisively.

Tuitions and fees for four-year public colleges grew by 72 percent above inflation over the past decade, averaging \$8,244 last year, according to the College Board, which represents more than 6,000 schools. Student loan debt in the U.S. has hit \$914 billion; the average borrower owes more than \$24,000, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York says.

Democrats are sure to reach for the college vote at the party's national convention in Charlotte, N.C., a week after Obama spoke to students in university towns in Virginia, Colorado and Iowa. Romney was counting on his youngest son, Craig, and the 42-year-old Ryan to court young supporters.

In 2008, voters age 18 to 24 sided with Obama over GOP candidate John McCain by a 66-32 margin. A Gallup poll taken in July and August found that same age group preferring Obama over Romney by 56 percent to 36 percent, an edge that Republicans would love to erode further.



Obama

Well before the party conventions, both sides had issued proposals directly affecting college students—and their parents—coping with those mushrooming costs.

Obama would let the current \$5,550 per year maximum Pell grant increase to \$5,635 next year, as scheduled under current law. That figure has grown by more than \$900 since 2008 for a program that is the largest source of federal aid for students, serving more than 9 million of them.

Obama would make permanent the American Opportunity tax credit, created as part of his 2009 economic stimulus program. The credit provides up to \$2,500 a year per student for college costs but is due to expire Jan. 1. Renewing it would cost an estimated \$13 billion next year alone.

Obama has also proposed tying some federal aid, including Perkins loans and subsidies for students' work-study jobs, to schools' abilities to curb tuition increases. The president's proposals continue "the administration's commitment to keep college affordable for students and their families," his 2013 budget blueprint said.

Separate plans by presidential



Romney

nominee Romney and his running mate focus more on containing federal costs.

In a May paper, Romney argued that even as federal spending for higher education has grown, the costs of attending college and student debt have ballooned. Obama initiatives making the government the direct source of federal student loans, creating the American Opportunity tax credit and boosting Pell grants have not worked, it said.

"Flooding colleges with federal dollars only serves to drive tuition higher," said Romney's education paper, "A Chance for Every Child."

It said Romney would improve college access and affordability: "A Romney administration will tackle this challenge by making clear that the federal government will no longer write a blank check to universities to reward their tuition increases."

Romney would eliminate duplicative federal college financial aid programs, direct Pell grants to "students that need them most" and put the program on a sustainable long-term path, the document said. It provides few details.

He would put private lenders

back in the business of issuing federally backed student loans, let companies compile data about lending and colleges for consumers and help families save for higher education. The paper says little about how.

Campaigning in March, Romney was asked by a voter what he would do to make college more affordable. Romney replied that while it might be popular for him to answer that he would provide students with government money, "what I'm going to tell you is shop around."

Ryan, the Wisconsin Republican who is chairman of the House Budget Committee, wrote a House-approved 2013 budget that would let the American Opportunity tax credit expire in January. It would freeze the maximum Pell grant at \$5,500 for the next decade and it suggests rolling back some subsidies for student borrowers and recent provisions making the grants more widely available.

Ryan's budget says the Pell grant program, currently costing about \$36 billion a year, is unsustainable.

"Urgent reforms are necessary to enable the program to continue as the foundation of the nation's commitment to helping low-income students gain access to higher education," budget documents say.

Obama also proposed keeping interest rates at 3.4 percent for subsidized Stafford loans for undergraduates. After initial Republican hesitation, Romney endorsed the idea and Congress eventually approved it. Ryan's budget would have let the rates double to 6.8 percent, as was scheduled under previous law.

Mass. college offers illegal immigrant scholarship

By SHANNON YOUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP)—A small private liberal arts college in western Massachusetts has announced the establishment of a scholarship fund dedicated to helping illegal immigrants get degrees.

The scholarship will provide more than \$25,000 each year to help an illegal immigrant pay for the \$43,000-plus tuition at Hampshire College in Amherst. At current funding levels, the endowment will help support one student's studies at the college every four years, said college spokeswoman Elaine Thomas.

A professor was inspired to create the fund following a student's senior project on the Development, Relief, Education for Alien Minors act, which would allow some illegal immigrants to achieve U.S. citizenship by getting college degrees or by serving in the military. The legislation has yet to pass in Congress.

Hampshire alumni, graduating students, parents and other donors have given more than \$300,000 since the spring to fund the scholarship and an endowment to sustain it.

There are an estimated 65,000 illegal immigrants who graduate from American high schools each year. Of those, an estimated 5 to 10 percent apply for college.

No state or federal laws prohibit the admission of illegal immigrants into U.S. colleges, but schools have varying admission policies.

Many states treat illegal immigrants as international students, charging them hefty out-of-state tuition regardless of whether they were raised in the state.

Only California, New Mexico and Texas allow illegal immigrants to receive state financial aid, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Illinois has a privately-funded scholarship endowment

for these students, according to the group. There are also some private scholarships that openly welcome illegal immigrant applicants and others get financial help from merit-based scholarships.

Margaret Cerullo, the sociology professor who spearheaded the scholarship, has called the barriers blocking illegal immigrants' access to a college education a "social injustice."

"For a lot of us, access to higher education is a deep principle," Cerullo said in a statement last month.

Thomas said Hampshire College hopes to grow the size of the endowment to be able to help more immigrants. She would not identify the student who has received the award for the school year beginning this fall, citing federal education privacy rules.

Justin Draeger, the president and chief executive officer of the National Association of

Student Financial Aid Administrators, praised states, schools and scholarship funds that recognize this population of students didn't come to the country by choice. Most were illegally brought to the country as young children or infants.

"There are a lot of kids who are U.S. citizens who have barriers to higher education," he said. "These students have these barriers and more."

Both the University of California Berkeley and University of California Los Angeles have offered scholarships specifically for illegal immigrants.

Eva Millona, the executive director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Coalition, said this is the first instance where she has heard of a Massachusetts college or university offering a specific scholarship to illegal immigrants.

"We're thrilled to hear this and we commend them for this generous effort," she said.

DO YOUR PART

Top 5 ways to save on back to school shopping



If you want to "Do Your Part," to cut down on waste and wasted money on back to school supplies, take stock of what you have.

By TERRI BENNETT
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

It's back to school time and parents know all too well what that means. New clothes, shoes, supplies, lunches, and so much more! If you want to Do Your Part to cut down on waste and wasted money, here are my Top 5 Ways to Save on Back to School Shopping.

Take stock of what you have

Rigid notebooks and binders usually last longer than just one school year. Also, if your kids have notebooks or compositions books with only a few pages used, simply tear those pages out. And spend a little time looking for items that may be misplaced during the summer such as rulers, scissors, or protractors. No need to buy new when you already have perfectly good ones at home.

2) Pack waste-free lunches

Packing a 100 percent waste-free lunch is a lot easier than you might think. First off, ditch those single-use lunch bags and opt for a reusable lunch box. Then, use reusable containers to hold your child's lunch items. Make it easy on yourself and buy products in containers that can be reused such as yogurt cups or lunchmeat containers. If juice boxes are your weakness, there are now reusable containers in same shape and size. And, investing in a few inexpensive utensils and cloth napkins will mean your child will never have anything to toss in the trash.

Designer duds on a dime

National resale chains or neighborhood consignment shops offer incredible deals on high quality and name brand clothing, shoes, and accessories. The clothes are in near perfect to

gently used condition and some still have the tags on them. I recently found a pair of jeans at one resale shop that normally sells for \$200 new, being sold for just \$50. Resale shops are also good places to sell your high quality clothing and earn cash or store credit.

Electronics for less

Whether it's a computer or new calculator, there's probably an electronic or two on our list to get this year. If shopping for computers, find out if you live near a Goodwill Computer Works retail store. That's where the organization sells refurbished computer equipment (everything from hard drives to mice to power cords) for a fraction of the retail cost. Plus, it'll help keep those items out of landfills. For smaller electronics, choose solar powered when possible.

Consider carpooling

Carpooling is any easy way to save money, gas, and time. There are many online sites and even phone apps that make it easy to set up carpool plans with other trusted parents or colleagues. They can organize the carpool schedule for you and even send out reminders when it's your turn to drive. Most also have Facebook pages to make it even more convenient. Check out DoYourPart.com/Columns for specific carpooling resources.

Back to school time doesn't need to break the bank. Do Your Part to get more out of every dollar you spend this year and tread a little lighter on our planet at the same time.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of *Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living* available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com

Life & Style

Actor Michael Clarke Duncan dead at 54

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Clarke Duncan, the hulking, prolific character actor whose dozens of films included an Oscar-nominated performance as a death row inmate in "The Green Mile" and such other box office hits as "Armageddon," "Planet of the Apes" and "Kung Fu Panda," is dead at age 54.

Duncan died Monday morning at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, where he was being treated for a heart attack, said his fiancée, reality TV personality Rev. Omarosa Manigault, in a statement released by publicist Joy Fehily.

The muscular, 6-foot-4 (1.96 meter) Duncan, a former bodyguard who turned to acting in his 30s, "suffered a myocardial infarction on July 13 and never fully recovered," the statement said. "Manigault is grateful for all of your prayers and asks for privacy at this time. Celebra-

tions of his life, both private and public, will be announced at a later date."

In the spring of 2012, Duncan had appeared in a video for PETA, the animal rights organization, in which he spoke of how much better he felt since becoming a vegetarian three years earlier.

"I cleared out my refrigerator, about \$5,000 worth of meat," he said. "I'm a lot healthier than I was when I was eating meat."

Duncan had a handful of minor roles before "The Green Mile" brought him an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actor. The 1999 film, based on the Stephen King novel of the same name, starred Tom Hanks as a corrections officer at a penitentiary in the 1930s. Duncan played John Coffey, a convicted murderer with a surprisingly gentle demeanor and extraordinary healing powers.



This Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012 photo shows actor Michael Clarke Duncan in New York.

Duncan's performance caught on with critics and moviegoers and he quickly became a favorite in Hollywood, appearing in several films a year. He owed some of his good fortune to Bruce Willis, who recommended Duncan for "The Green Mile" after the two appeared together in "Armageddon." Duncan would work with Willis again in "Breakfast of Champions," "The Whole Nine Yards" and "Sin City."

His industrial-sized build was suited for everything from superhero films ("Daredevil") to comedy ("Talladega Nights,"

"School for Scoundrels"). His gravelly baritone alone was good enough for several animated movies, including, "Kung Fu Panda," "Delgo" and "Brother Bear." Among Duncan's television credits: "The Apprentice," "The Finder," "Two and a Half Men" and "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody."

Born in Chicago in 1957, Duncan was raised by a single mother whose resistance to his playing football led to his deciding he wanted to become an actor. But when his mother became ill, he dropped out of college, Alcorn State University,

and worked as a ditch digger and bouncer to support her. By his mid-20s, he was in Los Angeles, where he looked for acting parts and became a bodyguard for Will Smith, Jamie Foxx and other stars. The murder of rapper Notorious B.I.G., for whom Duncan had been hired to protect before switching assignments, led him to quit his job and pursue acting full-time.

Early film and television credits, when he was usually cast as a bodyguard or bouncer, included "Bulworth," "A Night at the Roxbury" and "The Players Club."

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights from the acting career of Michael Clarke Duncan, who died Monday at 54:

- "Bulworth," 1998.
- "The Players Club," 1998.
- "A Night at the Roxbury," 1998.
- "Armageddon," 1998.
- "Breakfast of Champions," 1999.
- "The Green Mile," 1999.
- "The Whole Nine Yards," 2000.
- "Planet of the Apes," 2001.
- "Cats & Dogs," 2001.
- "See Spot Run," 2001.
- "The Scorpion King," 2002.
- "Daredevil," 2003.
- "Brother Bear," 2003.
- "D.E.B.S.," 2004.
- "Sin City," 2005.
- "Racing Stripes," 2005.
- "The Island," 2005.
- "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," 2006.
- "School for Scoundrels," 2006.
- "The Last Mimzy," 2007.
- "Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins," 2008.
- "Delgo," 2008.
- "Kung Fu Panda," 2008.
- "Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore," 2010.
- "Green Lantern," 2011.
- "The Finder" TV series, 2012.

Hollywood reacts to Michael Clarke Duncan's death

A sampling of the outpouring of love and memories from the Hollywood and sports worlds Monday following the death of Michael Clarke Duncan, many of them on Twitter:

■ "I am terribly saddened at the loss of Big Mike. He was the treasure we all discovered on the set of 'The Green Mile.' He was magic. He was a big love of man and his passing leaves us stunned."—Tom Hanks.

■ "I'm devastated at the loss of Michael Clarke Duncan, one of the finest people I've ever had the privilege to work with or know. Michael was the gentlest of souls—an exemplar of decency, integrity, and kindness. The sadness I feel is inexpressible."—Frank Darabont, director of "The Green Mile."

■ "(at)OfficialMCD I cant believe you are gone my friend. I will miss our Lakers vs Mavs

sets and texts. You will not be forgotten. RIP"—Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban ((at)mcuban).

■ "Michael Clarke Duncan passes at 54. A striking screen presence."—Film critic Roger Ebert ((at)ebertchicago).

■ "'When something happens, we always say it happens for a reason' Michael Clarke Duncan 12/10/57—9/3/12 I'll miss you my brother."—Dwayne Johnson ((at)TheRock).

■ "I met Michael years ago and he was such a nice guy. Very sad"—Auto racing star Danica Patrick ((at)DanicaPatrick).

■ "Michael Clarke Duncan always had a smile on his face & a big bear hug ready for you. My thoughts & prayers are with his family&friends. RIP"—Actress Olivia Munn ((at)oliviamunn).

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Alice Castro Manglona

Born: October 29, 1960

Died: August 30, 2012

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: John Masga Manglona

Children and grandchildren: Jayra C. Manglona/ Jesse Cruz (Jay'aani); Alison C. Manglona/ Luis Reyes (Keoni, Kirida, Logan); Shannon C. Manglona; Genesis C. Manglona

Parents: †Marceliano Manibusan Castro and Dolores Babauta Castro

Parents In-Law: Francisco and Dorothy M. Manglona

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

Frank B. and Terry R. Castro; Juan B. and Rosa C. Castro; Martin B. Castro and Maggie B. Muna; Lola C. and Joe C. Mafnas; Jess B. and Nora A. Castro; Ton B. and Maricar H. Castro; Ben B. and Lucy C. Castro; Tina C. and Gus C. Kaneshi; Joe B. and Faye M. Castro; Rita C. and Ben S. Agulto; Chassie B. Castro and Rodney Tarkong

†Lucio M. and †Milagro H. Manglona; Miguel M. and †Rosa Babauta/ Susan; Fredirico M. and †Juanita C. Manglona; Juliana M. and Frank Toves; Thomasa M. and George Camacho

Mass of Intentions is celebrated at 6:00pm at San Roque Church followed by Holy Rosary at 7:00pm.

FUNERAL SERVICE – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2012

Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Beach Rd., Garapan 6:00am to 8:00am.

Holy Rosary – 6:30am • Viewing and Last Respects – 7:00am to 8:00am.

Funeral cortege to Grace Christian Assembly of God, Navy Hill – 8:30am.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
GRACE CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH,
NAVY HILL – 9:00am to 11:00am
MEMORIAL SERVICE, EULOGY, VIEWING
AND LAST RESPECTS
Interment Service – Tanapag Public Cemetery

Father's idea of cuddling is too close for comfort

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My mom's boyfriend wants to spend time with my 16-year-old sister and take her places all the time. He wants to cuddle with both of us whenever we sit on the couch and gets really upset when we don't want to. He's my biological father, but I have known him only for a year because he left my mom when she was pregnant with me.



Dear Abby

Now he wants to play "dad" when I already have had a dad all my life. (Mom was married for 11 years to another man.) I'm 14.

He yells and swears all the time and takes things away from us if we don't do what he wants. He isn't physically abusive yet, but the cuddling freaks me out and I don't think it's right. I told my school counselor. She said to get over it, that it wasn't a big deal.

Abby, what can I do? I think he is grooming my sister for sex since he told us he likes young girls and was used to them before Mom. Mom has problems with depression and reality and won't listen to us. Help us, please. Where can I go?

HELPLESS IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR HELPLESS: Because your father's overtures make you uncomfortable, and he "punishes" you if you don't accept them—it is a "big deal." Before this goes any further, you should call Childhelp and describe what's happening. The toll-free number is 800-422-4453. The person who answers the phone can refer you to help in your state. Please don't wait. Your safety and that of your sister could depend on it.

DEAR ABBY: I am romantically attracted to a girl, "Jade." We have known each other ever since we were in diapers. She's bubbly, vivacious and beautiful. We flirted with puppy love about 10 years ago, but it never went beyond writing love letters and ended quickly. It was so disappointingly brief that I have never regarded it as a true relationship. I consider her my first love.

Jade goes through boyfriends like a chain-smoker goes through cigarettes. It seems as if every time I ask her, "So, how is your current boyfriend?" that she has a new one. Her mother is the same way, truth be told, and never found a good father figure for Jade. The men her mother dated were abusive. Consequently, Jade isn't the best judge of men, either.

My parents have suggested that she may view me as a friend because I'm the only decent guy in her life, and she's afraid we wouldn't be friends if our romantic relationship ended. I want to tell her that I'd like to date her the next time her current relationship ends. At the same time, I want her to know I'd rather have her as a friend than nothing at all. Thanks to the wonder of social media, I will know when her next relationship ends. Should I wait till then? If not, how long?

FIRST LOVE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR FIRST LOVE: You seem to have a lot of insight about Jade. Because she was raised by a mother who was involved in one abusive relationship after another, she may feel that unless there is pain and drama, that what she's experiencing is boring and not really "love." Until she realizes that the criteria she's using in choosing men are flawed, and is willing to get help to straighten out her thinking, her pattern will continue to repeat itself.

As you hover over your keyboard waiting for news of her next romantic failure, I suggest that rather than "pounce," you keep her as a friend until she's ready for a mature relationship. If you don't, you will only suffer more disappointment.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

One Direction reaches agreement over name

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—British boy band One Direction and a U.S. musical group of the same name have reached an agreement that allows the U.K. group to continue use of the name.

The two groups issued a news release from London saying the California-based group will change its name to Uncharted Shores.

The release says both parties are pleased with the resolution.

The quintet of Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Liam Payne, Harry Styles and Louis Tomlinson came together in 2010 after trying out individually for the British version of "The X Factor." They've since become a sensation and their album "Up All Night" was the first by a U.K. act to debut at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 all-genre albums chart.



In this March 31, 2012 file photo, One Direction performs at Nickelodeon's 25th Annual Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles.

LeAnn Rimes sues over phone call; enters treatment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeAnn Rimes sued two women she claims illegally recorded a phone conversation with her and posted snippets online, one day after she sought professional help for anxiety and stress.

Rimes sued Kimberly Smiley and her adult daughter Lexi on Thursday, seeking more than \$25,000 in damages for recording a March phone conversation that ended up online on websites bashing the country singer.

Kimberly Smiley denied she posted the recording, saying she shared it with online acquaintances, one of whom played it for the ex-wife of Rimes' husband, Eddie Cibrian. "The

whole thing is just ridiculous," she said. "It's just a celebrity who's too full of herself."

The invasion of privacy lawsuit came one day after Rimes, 30, entered an in-patient treatment facility in what her publicist Marcel Pariseau describes an attempt to "learn and develop coping mechanisms."

Pariseau says Rimes isn't seeking treatment for an eating disorder or substance abuse, adding that "while privacy isn't expected, it's certainly appreciated."

The recorded phone call oc-

curred because a friend of Rimes connected the singer and Smiley to try to stop some negative online postings, according to the lawsuit and an interview with Smiley.

It is illegal in California for a party to record a phone call without the other person's knowledge.

"The making of the unauthorized recording and the posting of it and edited excerpts of it on various websites have resulted in a public and damaging depiction of Ms. Rimes, have harmed her reputation and personal relationships, and have

caused her emotional distress," the lawsuit states.

Rimes and Cibrian were married in April 2011 and their relationship has remained a subject of tabloid fascination, due in part to them being married to other people when it started.

Kimberly Smiley, who is a schoolteacher in Northern California, said she has been on the receiving end of bullying from Rimes' supporters and has kept her Twitter and a YouTube post of the call on private settings. She said she shared the call with others but did not sell the recording, which she said her daughter made because of some "outrageous" things the singer was saying.



Rimes

Red Bull heir arrested in deadly Thai hit-and-run

BANGKOK (AP)—A grandson of the creator of the Red Bull energy drink has been arrested for driving a Ferrari that struck a police officer and dragged his dead body down a Bangkok street in an early-morning hit-and-run, police said Monday.

Police took Vorayuth Yoovidhya, 27, for questioning after tracing oil streaks for several blocks to his family's gated estate in a wealthy neighborhood of the Thai capital.

He was facing charges of causing death by reckless driving and escaping an arrest by police but was released on a 500,000 baht (\$15,900) bail.

Vorayuth admitted he drove the charcoal gray sports car but said the police officer's motorcycle abruptly cut in front of his vehicle, said police Maj. Gen. Anuchai Lekbamroong, the lead investigator in the case.

Bangkok's top police official, Lt. Gen. Comronwit Toopgrajank, said he took charge of the investigation after a lower-ranking policeman initially tried to cover up the crime by turning in a bogus suspect. Comronwit himself led a team of officers to search the compound of late Red Bull founder Chaleo Yoovidhya, one of Thai-



Vorayuth Yoovidhya, a grandson of late Red Bull founder Chaleo Yoovidhya, is taken by a plain-clothes police officer for investigation Monday, Sept. 3, 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

land's wealthiest men before he passed away this year, and confiscated a Ferrari with a badly damaged front bumper and broken windshield.

The victim, Sgt. Maj. Wichean Glanprasert, 47, was killed during a motorcycle patrol before dawn. Thai media reported that the car dragged the officer and his motorcycle for several dozen meters (feet) as it sped through the residential neighborhood.

Comronwit said he suspended the police officer who attempted to subvert the investigation.

"A policeman is dead. I can't let this stand. If I let this case get

away, I'd rather quit," he told reporters. "I don't care how powerful they are. If I can't get the actual man in this case, I will resign."

Vorayuth did not speak to the media but the family lawyer said the family will be take responsibility for the damages.

The Yoovidhya family was ranked the 4th richest in Thailand this year by Forbes magazine, with a net worth of \$5.4 billion. Red Bull creator Chaleo Yoovidhya died in his 80s in March, leaving his heirs a wide range of businesses, including shares in the globally popular energy drink brand, hospitals and real estate.

Lead guitarist for Starship dies in Nebraska

NORFOLK, Neb. (AP)—Mark Abrahamian (abe-ruh-hehn-EE'-an), the lead guitarist for the rock band Starship, has died of a heart attack after a concert in Norfolk, Neb.

Road manager Scott Harrison says Abrahamian died Sunday night after performing at the DeVent Center. He was 46.

Harrison says an autopsy was done Monday.

Starship was the opening band for a concert that also featured Survivor and Boston.

Harrison says that after Starship performed, Abrahamian went to the dressing room and complained about not feeling well. He collapsed and was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Abrahamian joined Starship 11 years ago. Starship's history goes back to the 1960s with Jefferson Airplane and in 1980s Jefferson Starship.

Abrahamian lived in Austin, Texas. Funeral services are pending.

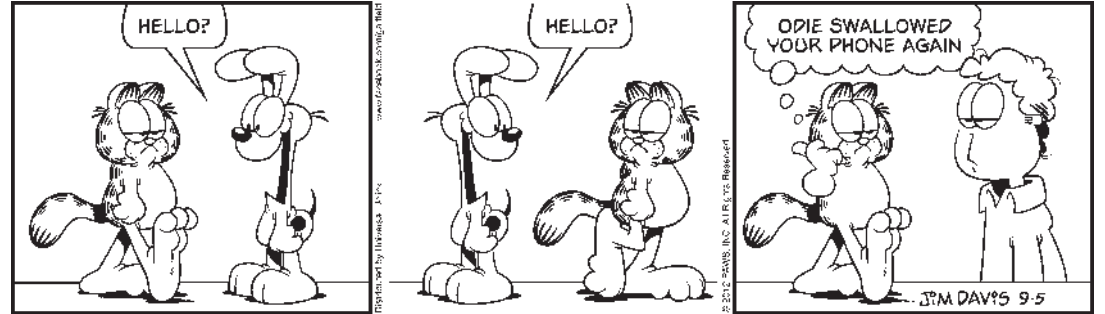
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

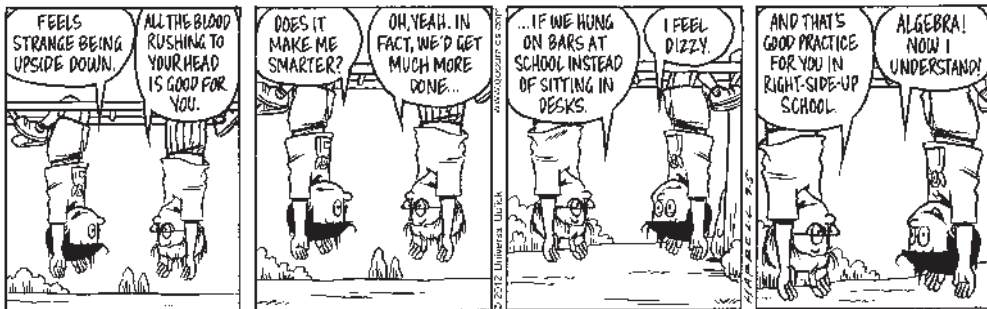


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Medicos
5 Performance
8 "Oh, wool!"
12 Acknowledge
13 Greek consonant
14 Domestic
15 Nonsense
17 Pack away
18 Gray, in a way
19 Motes
21 Aid
24 "Go, team!"
25 Rickey flavor
28 "The Music Man" locale
30 See 9-Down
33 Emulate Lindsey Vonn
34 With 23-Down, what "it's all about?"
35 Historic time
36 Lair

DOWN

1 Beavers'
2 Elliptical
3 Pop selection
4 Envelop tance
5 Clumsy boat
6 Guevara nickname
7 Santa's sackful
8 Bewildered
9 With 30-Across, one with two
10 Out of control
11 Stitches
16 Catcher's place
20 Beseech
22 Oz character
23 See 34-Across
25 "Acid"
26 Eisenhower
27 A restrained manner
29 Existed
31 Glass of NPR
32 Newsman
34 Did some weeding
38 "2001" author
40 Squander
42 Baton Rouge sch.
43 G-men
44 Settled down
45 Celeb
47 Guitars' kin
48 Dregs
49 Proof-reader's find
52 Praise in verse
53 "Family Guy" network

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	E	S	S	R	E	F	G	O	D	E
C	M	I	T	I	G	U	A	N	E	W
I	S	T	A	N	B	U	L	N	I	C
A	D	U	L	T	A	I	D	A		
N	O	N	E		I	S	L	A	N	D
T	E	D		I	M	P	L	E		
I	S	O		I	O	P	E	S		
B	E	G	G	A	R	K	E	W		
L	U	N	G		I	S	A	B	F	I
O	R	A	L		A	P	T		R	E
T	O	T	E		L	A	Y		Y	E

Yesterday's answer 9-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rose McGowan, 39; Dweezil Zappa, 43; Michael Keaton, 61; Raquel Welch, 72.

Happy Birthday: You will invite change if you broaden your knowledge or skills this year. Taking a no-nonsense approach to life and your long-term goals will pay off. Don't let impulse take over when steady progress is what's required. Use your intuition to guide you in the right direction professionally, but don't lose site of what's going on in your life personally. Your numbers are 8, 13, 25, 29, 33, 40, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a back-seat and let others make the first move. It's better to observe for now. Emotional arguments will not solve a problem, but practical application that allows you to put your efforts where you'll get the highest return is favored. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Show your feelings and embrace change. Follow your heart. Romance is in the stars, and being true to the one you love will bring stellar results. A trip or socializing will lead to a better understanding of what you can achieve. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make constructive changes to your spending habits. A precise assessment of what you are doing and have already accomplished will help keep you out of trouble when dealing with superiors. Positive and progressive action will be impressive. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take time to assess your situation at home and your relationships with friends and relatives. Choose

the people you want to work alongside or to help will be crucial if you want to achieve specific results. Express your plans elaborately. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't leave anything to chance. Finish what you start to avoid complaints. A change of location or trying something new will help to ease your stress. Take care of any pressing health or family matters. Added responsibilities are apparent. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do whatever it takes to improve your position personally, financially or professionally. You will have options and must compare where different choices will lead. Don't underestimate someone vying for the same position or goal. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Think big, but don't let impulse overrule common sense. Not everyone will agree with you. Put more effort into domestic changes that will help keep everyone around you content. Avoid anyone putting pressure on you. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Discuss business plans with your boss or someone you want to work alongside. Don't hide your expertise or fear putting a little pressure on someone who needs a gentle push. Love is on the rise, and a little playful fun should be scheduled. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Bend a little if that's what it takes to get along with others. Too much of anything or exaggerating facts will lead to trouble. Make constructive changes at home that will help stabilize your personal life. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got more control over a situation than you realize. Take care of money matters; do your best to secure your assets and you will be able to relax. Your efforts will be looked at as skills that are valuable. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look out for your own interests. Trouble will develop if you share your personal secrets with someone untrustworthy. You are best to focus on important partnerships and maintaining the highest level of integrity. Put money in a safe place. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Tie up loose ends and tend to personal money matters. Creative accounting can help you save more. Don't let an emotional issue spin out of control. Make love, not war. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You strive for security and stability. You are detailed, precise and insistent.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			4	9	3					
		5				1				
	3							8		
	9							6		
	7							3		
		1				7				
		7	5	1	8	3				
	8			6				4		
3				2					9	

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

9/05

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	3	2	6	9	1	5	4
6	1	2	5	4	3	8	7	9
4	5	9	7	8	1	3	2	6
5	8	4	9	1	7	2	6	3
3	9	6	8	5	2	7	4	1
1	2	7	4	3	6	5	9	8
2	6	8	3	7	4	9	1	5
7	4	5	1	9	8	6	3	2
9	3	1	6	2	5	4	8	7

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'PERSON OF INTEREST' (TV SERIES)

Solution: 8 letters

E	R	S	R	H	N	A	M	T	I	H	C	N	Y	L
N	C	O	C	S	T	A	Y	L	O	R	A	O	A	A
B	O	N	T	I	C	R	M	I	J	G	C	I	I	H
D	I	S	A	A	E	A	R	E	E	S	C	C	S	O
F	E	L	R	L	R	N	R	N	U	O	I	E	N	M
H	H	T	L	E	L	O	T	F	S	L	I	C	O	I
I	E	I	E	I	M	I	B	I	A	P	M	A	M	C
R	F	A	D	C	O	E	E	A	S	C	A	R	M	I
E	L	A	R	D	T	N	S	V	L	T	E	L	I	D
K	T	E	R	A	E	I	A	E	R	L	T	A	S	E
A	V	A	R	C	N	V	I	E	U	O	I	U	H	
R	M	A	I	J	O	S	S	E	R	R	S	C	I	C
A	J	L	A	L	N	A	L	P	R	E	V	E	N	T
I	O	C	A	V	I	E	Z	E	L	N	T	P	E	A
P	D	N	U	O	R	G	R	E	D	N	U	S	G	W

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9/5

Agent, Alicia, Billionaire, Cara, Carl, Carter, Caviezel, Collaborator, Data, Detective, Door, Drama, Emerson, Finch, Fusco, Genius, Hidden, Hire, Hit Man, Homicide, Jim, Joss, Kara, Life, Lynch, Nolan, Plan, Police, Prevent, Reese, Scarface, Scientist, Simmons, Social, Special, Spies, Surveillance, Taraji, Taylor, Team, Tyrell, Underground, Watched

Yesterday's Answer: Las Palmas

The NEW Treasury is a word search puzzle that contains 100 words and phrases. It is a fun and challenging puzzle that can be used for entertainment or as a tool for learning.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Find today's solution in classified section

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Joeten Center, Susupe

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Rate : \$ 5.05 to \$ 6.00 per hour

With minimum 5 years experience as a Bookkeeping, accounting technician. With knowledge how to use Quick books Software, compute, classify, and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May check the accuracy of figures, calculations, and postings pertaining to business transactions recorded by other workers. Must be able to work flexible time.

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Some conditions may apply

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Closing out sale extended!! Everything must go!! 50% Off the price tag. Sale ends on September 7, 2012

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.



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- ABILITY to multi-task and accept additional responsibilities
- CNMI and/or US CITIZENS may apply


PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON, we are located at Bank of Hawaii Building, Marina Heights I, Puerto Rico, Saipan

NO Phone calls PLEASE

Closing date: Friday, September 21, 2012



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Email: [nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:nmhco@nmhc.gov.mp) • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



PUBLIC NOTICE


RE: Submission of Previous Month's CUC Billing Receipt

This is to inform all tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program and the New Construction/Multifamily Program that effective October 01, 2012, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) will be requiring each tenant to provide a copy of the previous month's billing receipt from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) on a monthly basis.


Therefore, for the month of October 2012, when you come in to claim your Utility Reimbursement Payment (URP) check, please have your CUC billing receipt for September 2012 ready to be submitted to NMHC. Moreover, the submission of a copy of your previous month's CUC billing receipt will be a monthly requirement. Failure to provide NMHC with a copy of your previous month's CUC billing receipt will result in NMHC holding your URP check until the billing receipt has been submitted.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Program and Housing Division at 234-6866/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-OPA-106



SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT AND FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION (CHC) FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012"

THE SINGLE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. ROSAURIO D. ZAPANTA, ANALYST MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

McIlroy avoids major hangover with Boston victory



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, holds the trophy after winning the Deutsche Bank Championship PGA golf tournament at TPC Boston in Norton, Mass., Monday, Sept. 3, 2012.

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Rory McIlroy needed three weeks to catch his breath after his first major victory, and it took him until the end of last year before he was back in the form that would eventually make him the No. 1 golfer in the world.

The hangover was much shorter after he picked up his second major last month.

In his second tournament since winning at the PGA Championship at Kiawah Island by eight strokes, McIlroy shot a final-round 67 to win the Deutsche Bank Championship on Monday. McIlroy finished at 20-under-par, one stroke ahead of Luis Oosthuizen and two in front of Tiger Woods, to earn his third victory of the year, move to the top of the FedEx Cup standings and establish himself as the favorite for the PGA's player of the year.

"He's not No. 1 in the world for nothing," said Oosthuizen, who led by three strokes heading into the day but fell to second with a double bogey on No. 5. "He's a great young talent, (with) a lot of majors left for him to win. He's such a cool kid on the course. It's great playing with him. He makes tough shots look really easy sometimes."

McIlroy won the U.S. Open last year for his first victory in a major and then took some time off for the commitments—and celebration—that followed. He struggled when he returned, including a 25th at the British Open and a 64th at the PGA Championship, before righting himself in the fall with a slew of top-five finishes.

"I had a lot going on at that time, and probably didn't handle it the best," McIlroy said after claiming a check for \$1.44 million. "I've learned how to

handle winning big events and carrying myself forward and not dwelling on what's happened."

McIlroy won the PGA Championship on Aug. 12, becoming the youngest player to win two majors since Seve Ballesteros. He finished tied for 24th last weekend at The Barclays and hovered near the top of the leaderboard all Labor Day weekend with a pair of 65s in the first two rounds followed by a pair of 67s to join Woods as the only three-time winners on the PGA Tour this year.

"There's a time and a place to celebrate and to enjoy what you've done, and going into the playoffs isn't it," said McIlroy, who also won the Honda Classic in March. "This run that we're on, we just have to keep thinking about the next week, and once Ryder Cup is over, for sure I'll think back and I'll celebrate and I'll enjoy the great golf that I've played over the last few weeks."

Woods, who won here in 2006, never got closer than three shots until a two-putt birdie on the par-5 18th gave him a 66—good for third place and a check for \$544,000 that made him the first \$100 million man on the PGA Tour. Woods has earned \$100,350,700; next on the list is Phil Mickelson—more than \$30 million behind at \$66,805,498 after finishing fourth at the Deutsche Bank.

"The purse increase helps," Woods said. "I won fewer tournaments than Sam Snead has, but obviously he was in a different era. It's just that we happened to time it up right and happened to play well when the purses really had a nice spike up."

Mickelson shot 66 on Sunday to tie for fourth with Dustin Johnson, who had a 70 and likely played his way onto

the Ryder Cup team. Brandt Snedeker made a strong case for a captain's pick with a 65-67 weekend to finish sixth.

Davis Love III will announce his four picks Tuesday morning in New York.

McIlroy had a three-shot lead with six holes to play, but needed a bogey putt on the 17th to stay in front after Oosthuizen, despite pain in his right shoulder, came back with two birdies to get within one.

McIlroy hit a chip shot over the 17th green into more rough, but Oosthuizen missed the green from 140 yards in the fairway, chipped poorly to 10 feet and missed his par putt. McIlroy calmly sank his 5-foot bogey putt to stay one shot ahead.

"I had a couple of wobbles coming in," McIlroy said. "But I obviously did enough and I'm very excited to get a victory."

It was the second time this year that Oosthuizen, who won the British Open by seven shots at St. Andrews two years ago, failed to convert a third-round lead into a victory.

McIlroy quickly cut into the three-stroke lead with three straight birdies, but Oosthuizen also birdied the fourth hole to move to minus-20.

Then came No. 5.

Oosthuizen hit a snap hook off the

tee that left him reaching for his right shoulder as the ball dove into the woods and landed in the middle of shoulder-high bushes. He had no option but to take a penalty drop out of the hazard, then laid up short of the creek and two-putted for double bogey.

McIlroy's tee shot found a clump of native grass on the edge of a bunker, and he had to chip out short of the creek to make bogey.

They were tied.

But Oosthuizen was hurting. He couldn't get through his swing on the next tee shot, which sailed into the bunker. He said adrenaline helped him forget about the pain.

But it was too late.

McIlroy went right at the sixth flag, hitting 9-iron into 3 feet for birdie and a lead that he never gave back.

"It was a great bonus after making bogey at the fifth to bounce straight back with that birdie," McIlroy said. "Once I got into the lead, I felt very comfortable. ... It worked for the most part. Obviously had a couple wobbles there coming in, but did enough in the early part of the round to have enough of a cushion to get the job done."

Woods lurked until the end—he had a 23-foot eagle putt on 18 that would have put him within a stroke of the

leaders—but it was really a two-man race until Oosthuizen missed from just inside 10 feet for par on the 17th and from 12 feet on the 18th.

"I probably made all my putts yesterday," Oosthuizen said.

The drama wasn't only at the top of the leaderboard, though: Charlie Hoffman was trying to salvage a spot in the top 70 in the FedEx Cup standings to advance to the third playoff event next week in Indianapolis.

Hoffman, who won here two years ago, was 13 under after a birdie on the eighth hole before playing his next nine in 8-over par—including a quadruple-bogey 7 on the par-3 11th. He came to the 18th needing a par to advance.

Hoffman went over the green in two, barely chipped on and then ran his putt 12 feet past the hole.

He made the putt for par.

"I didn't expect to be playing next week," Hoffman said. "Shooting 42 on the back nine, I don't think I deserved to play next week. But I guess I've got another chance."

Others who advanced included Dicky Pride, who birdied his last two holes to get the 70th spot by one stroke over Jonas Blixt; and Chris Kirk, who stumbled at the start only to birdie four of his last five holes.

Serena Williams wins 6-0, 6-0; Fish withdraws



NEW YORK (AP)—

Didn't take long for Serena Williams to show her fourth-round opponent at the U.S. Open where things were headed.

"The first point of the whole match," 82nd-ranked Andrea Hlavackova explained, "when I served, and she returned, like, a 100 mph forehand return, I was like, 'OK, I know who I'm playing. You don't have to prove it to me. I know.'"

Monday's match was less than 15 seconds old. It might as well have been over.

Dominant from the moment she ripped that return of an 88 mph second serve, forcing Hlavackova into an out-of-control backhand that sailed well long, to the moment she powered a 116 mph service winner on the last point, Williams extended her 2 1/2-month stretch of excellence with a 6-0, 6-0 victory to get to the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows.

Those two big zeros pretty much tell the story; it's the fifth time in her career Williams won with what's commonly called a "double bagel." Some other impressive numbers: Williams won 60 of 89 points, built a 31-9 edge in winners and improved to 23-1 since losing in the first round of the French Open. That run includes singles and doubles titles at both Wimbledon and the London Olympics.

Hlavackova knows this act all too well: She and Lucie Hradecka were the doubles runners-up at both of those events. Not that those 2-on-2 encounters helped prepare for the 1-on-1 match in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday.

"Singles is completely different," said Hlavackova, who chose the phrase "What can you do?" more than once when analyzing what it's like to face 14-time major champion Williams.

"My coach warned me to not go on the court and play for a score," Hlavackova said, by which she meant just trying to keep it as close as possible. "I was in the match. I was trying

to figure out how to win. And when it was, like, 6-love, 4-love, 30-love, I was thinking, 'Well, I'm not playing for a score, but one game wouldn't hurt.'"

Oh, well.

Next for the fourth-seeded Williams, who won the U.S. Open in 1999, 2002 and 2008, is a match against former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic, who reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time since winning the 2008 French Open by defeating 55th-ranked Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria 6-0, 6-4.

Williams—who lost in the third round of doubles with older sister Venus on Monday night—is 3-0 against Ivanovic, including a straight-set victory in the fourth round at Flushing Meadows last year. Must not have left much of an impression on the American, because when asked what she remembers most about their most recent match, Williams replied: "Was it here?"

Assured that it was, in 2011, Williams said with a smile: "OK. Yeah, I remember, clearly, not a lot, but I will be looking at the film."

In the semifinals, the Williams-Ivanovic winner will meet either No. 10 Sara Errani or No. 20 Roberta Vinci, doubles partners who both eliminated higher-seeded women Monday and now face the uncomfortable prospect of trying to beat a best buddy.

"Our friendship won't change, no matter what, no matter who wins," said Vinci, noting that she expects they'll have dinner together, as usual, Monday and Tuesday. "It definitely won't be an easy match from a mental perspective. We know each other well. We practice together often. We play doubles together. We know everything about each other."

Errani and Vinci teamed up to win the French Open doubles championship in June, and now one of them is going to be the first woman from Italy to play in the U.S. Open semifinals since the professional era began in 1968.

Errani, the runner-up to Maria

Sharapova at the French Open, got past No. 6 Angelique Kerber of Germany 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Reaching her first singles quarterfinal in 32 career Grand Slam tournaments, Vinci stunned No. 2 Agnieszka Radwanska 6-1, 6-4.

"I really had the worst day," said Radwanska, who could have moved up to No. 1 in the WTA rankings by reaching next weekend's final. "She really mixes it up - a lot of slice, then suddenly hitting very well from the forehand side, then kick serve, drop shots, volleys as well, coming to the net. It's really tough because she really had an answer for everything."

Radwanska could sympathize with Hlavackova's plight, having lost to Williams in the Wimbledon final.

"When she's on fire, you can't do anything about it. It doesn't matter what you try to do, it's going to be a winner," Radwanska said. "It's just Serena. She's a great champion."

So is No. 1-seeded Roger Federer, of course, owner of a record 17 Grand Slam titles, including five at the U.S. Open. As he attempts to add to those numbers, Federer got some extra rest Monday, because his fourth-round opponent, 23rd-seeded Mardy Fish of the United States, withdrew hours before their scheduled match for precautionary reasons, citing medical advice.

The man Federer beat in July's Wimbledon final and lost to in August's Olympic final, Andy Murray, muted 15th-seeded Milos Raonic's big serve and won 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 Monday night to reach an eighth consecutive major quarterfinal.

"Today was by far my best match of the tournament," Murray concluded.

No. 3 Murray will play No. 12 Marin Cilic of Croatia, who put together a 7-5, 6-4, 6-0 victory over 50th-ranked Martin Klizan of Slovakia, the last left-hander and unseeded man remaining. Murray has won 6 of 7 matches against Cilic over their careers, but the lone loss came at the U.S. Open in 2009.

Orioles top Blue Jays to cut AL East gap to 1 game



TORONTO—Joe Saunders and three relievers combined on a three-hitter and the charging Baltimore Orioles blanked Toronto 4-0 Monday, cutting their AL East deficit to one game.

The Orioles, who took two of three at Yankee Stadium over the weekend, moved even closer to New York. The Yankees lost 4-3 at Tampa Bay.

J.J. Hardy drove in two runs as the Orioles won for the eighth time in 10 games. Their one-game gap marks the closest anyone has been to the Yankees since mid-June.

Acquired recently from Arizona, Saunders (1-1) retired the first 17 Blue Jays batters before Adeiny Hechavarria lined a two-out single to center in the sixth inning.

J.A. Happ (3-2) allowed three runs, two earned, and six hits in five-plus innings. He walked two and struck out nine.

Rays 4, Yankees 3

In St. Petersburg, Fla., James Shields pitched eight strong innings to outlast CC Sabathia and light-hitting Chris Gimenez drove in two runs, helping the Rays beat the Yankees.

The Yankees, who led by 10 games earlier this summer, had their edge cut to one game by Baltimore, which beat Toronto 4-0. The Rays moved within 2 1-2 games of New York.

Shields (13-8) and the Rays ruined the return of Alex Rodriguez. The slugger went 1 for 4 with a strikeout in his first game after being sidelined six weeks with a broken left hand.

Gimenez snapped a 3-all tie in the eighth with a two-out grounder that just made it to the outfield for a single off David Robertson (1-5).

Indians 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Asdrubal Cabrera's tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the seventh inning lifted the Indians to a win over the Tigers, giving right-hander Corey Kluber his first career victory.

The game was tied at 2 in the seventh when reliever Darin Downs (1-1) allowed two singles and a walk to load the bases with one out. Cabrera then lifted a fly to center off Brayan Villarreal.

Kluber (1-3) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings in his seventh career start. He struck out four and walked one.

Vinnie Pestano allowed two baserunners in the ninth but escaped for his second save.

Rangers 8, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Mo., Yu Darvish retired the first 17 batters, Texas hit five home runs and the Rangers beat the Royals in a game that turned testy.

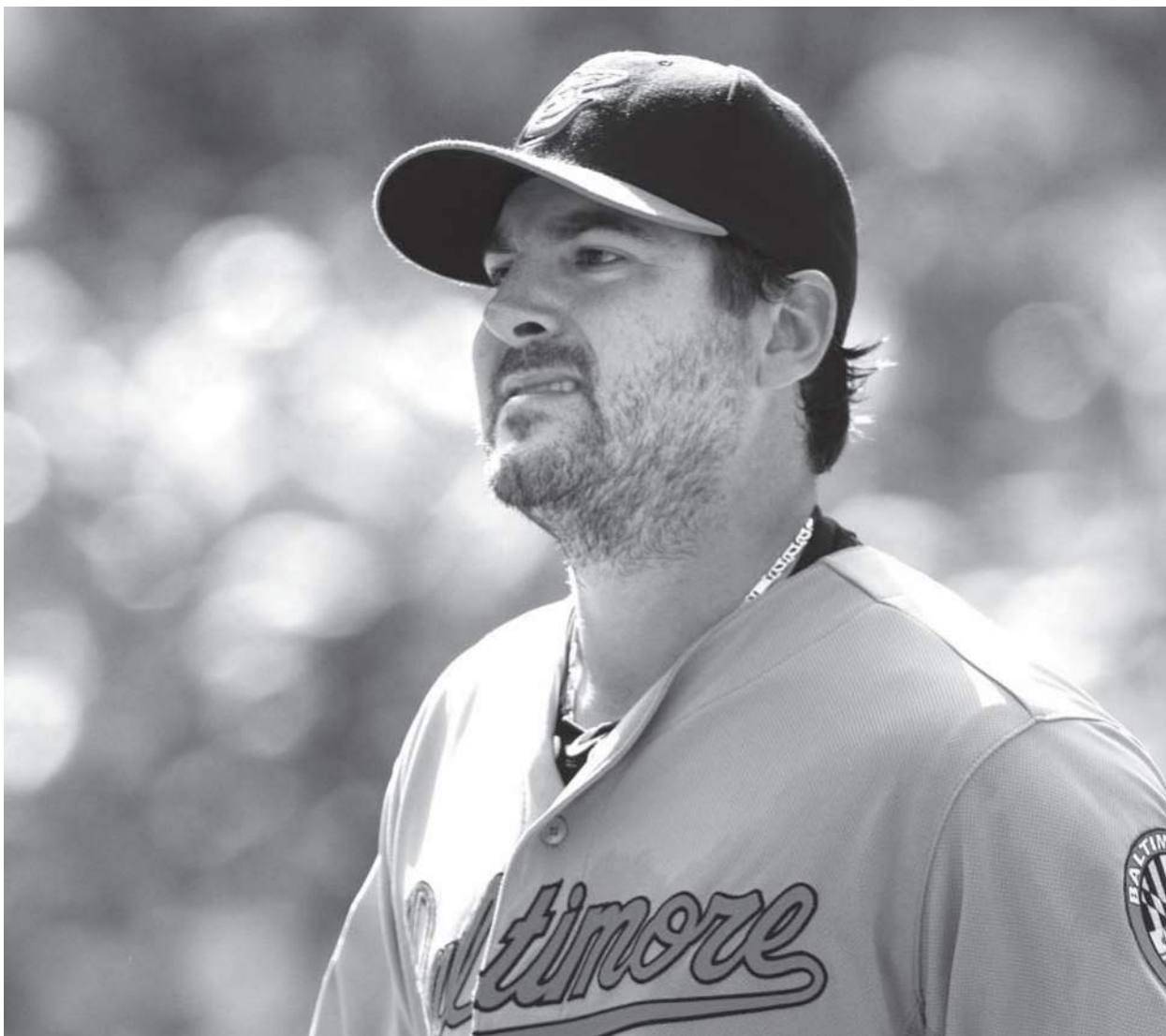
Adrian Beltre and Nelson Cruz homered on consecutive pitches in the sixth inning. Cruz watched his drive sail over the wall, then was hit by Louis Coleman's first pitch leading off the ninth.

Cruz took a few steps to the mound, but was restrained by catcher Brayan Pena. The dugouts and bullpens emptied, but only words were exchanged.

Michael Young answered that by homering on the next pitch.

Darvish (14-9) was pulled after the seventh and struck out six, including five in the first three innings, and walked one.

Bruce Chen (10-11) allowed six runs



Baltimore Orioles' Joe Saunders appears against the Toronto Blue Jays during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Monday Sept. 3, 2012, in Toronto. AP

on six hits, four of them home runs.

Angels 8, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Calif., Chris Iannetta hit a two-run homer in a three-hit day, Vernon Wells had a solo shot and RBI single, and the Angels snapped the Athletics' season-best nine-game winning streak.

C.J. Wilson (11-9) shut down the red-hot Athletics in the Angels' sixth victory in the last seven. Torii Hunter led off the third with a solo homer and added a sacrifice fly in the sixth for the Angels. Wells hit his 10th homer to start the fourth and No. 9 hitter Iannetta connected in the sixth.

Wilson outpitched fellow lefty Tommy Milone (11-10) to win back-to-back starts for the first time since June 19 and 26.

Mariners 4, Red Sox 1

In Seattle, Jason Vargas pitched seven solid innings and the Mariners sent Boston to its season-worst seventh straight loss.

The Red Sox [team stats] botched two key plays and fell to 0-7 on their road trip. They've been outscored 58-16 in that span.

Vargas (14-9) allowed one run and six hits, walked no one and struck out five. He is the first Mariners pitcher other than Felix Hernandez to win at least 14 games since 2003.

Tom Wilhelmsen worked the ninth to pick up his 23rd save in 26 opportunities.

Clay Buchholz (11-5) went seven innings, giving up three earned runs, six hits while walking one and striking out eight.

White Sox 4, Twins 2

In Chicago, Gordon Beckham hit a two-run homer and Hector Santiago won in his first major league start as the White Sox beat the Twins and moved back into sole possession of first place in the

AL Central.

The White Sox moved a game up on Detroit, which lost to Cleveland 3-2.

Jamey Carroll hit his first home run in three seasons for the Twins, who are 25 games below .500. The home run for Carroll snapped a streak of 1,348 at-bats without a homer, which was the longest active streak in the majors.

Santiago (3-1) pitched five-plus innings and allowed one run on three hits. He struck out six and walked three. Santiago is taking Gavin Floyd's spot in the rotation. Floyd is on the DL with a sore right shoulder.

Twins starter Samuel Deduno (5-3) allowed two runs over six on six hits. He struck out three and walked three.

Nationals 1, Cubs 1

In Washinton, Ross Detwiler allowed four hits in seven shutout innings and Adam LaRoche homered Monday, giving the Washington Nationals their first winning season with a victory over the Chicago Cubs.

The NL East-leading Nationals improved to 82-52. The club moved from Montreal to Washington for the 2005 season and went 81-81 that year. In 2008 and 2009, the team lost a combined 205 games, then finished 80-81 in 2011.

The Nationals' win allowed them to hold their 6 1/2-game division lead over Atlanta.

Detwiler (9-6) struck out three and walked three, allowing only one runner to reach third.

Jeff Samardzija (8-13) gave up a long home run to LaRoche to lead off the second.

Tyler Clippard allowed two hits and a two-out RBI single to Welington Castillo in the ninth. Clippard threw the ball away for an error and allowed pinch-runner Tony Campana advance to second before striking out Josh Vitters for his 30th save in 33 opportunities.

Samardzija gave up seven hits in seven innings. He walked one and struck out eight.

Phillies 4, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Jimmy Rollins hit a three-run homer off Johnny Cueto during a cloudburst that sent fans scurrying for cover, leading Philadelphia over Cincinnati.

John Mayberry Jr. added a solo homer off Cueto (17-7), who failed in his attempt to become the majors' first 18-game winner. Cueto also lost a day game for the first time this season—he'd been 11-0 in 13 afternoon starts.

Rookie right-hander Tyler Cloyd (1-1) got his first major league hit and win. He singled ahead of Rollins's homer to extend the inning. The 25-year-old gave up four hits, including Jay Bruce's 30th homer, and struck out nine in seven innings.

Giants 9, Diamondbacks 8

In San Francisco, Marco Scutaro hit an RBI single in the 10th inning after Buster Posey's tying double in the ninth as San Francisco rallied to beat Arizona.

Brandon Crawford beat out a single to short leading off the 10th and moved to second when Brett Pill dropped a sacrifice bunt. Angel Pagan grounded out to first to advance Crawford.

Scutaro sent the final fastball from Bryan Shaw (1-5) past diving third baseman Chris Johnson for San Francisco's seventh walk-off win. Scutaro also doubled and scored the tying run in the ninth to help hand J.J. Putz his second straight blown save.

Sergio Romo (4-2) pitched a perfect 10th for the Giants.

Astros 5, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Brett Wallace had three hits, including a three-run homer, to lift Houston past struggling Pittsburgh.

Edgar Gonzalez (1-0) picked up

his first win as a starter in more than four years, giving up a run on five hits in 5 1-3 innings as the Astros won for just the third time since interim manager Tony DeFrancesco took over two weeks ago. Gonzalez struck out five and walked just one.

Jeff Locke (0-1) ran into trouble early and never recovered as the Pirates dropped their fourth straight in the race for the NL's second wild card spot. Locke surrendered five runs in five innings to remain winless in five big league starts.

Cardinals 5, Mets 4

In St. Louis, rookie Joe Kelly pitched 6 2-3 effective innings and also doubled, and St. Louis held off New York.

Kelly (5-6) allowed five hits and two runs. He made his second start after a brief stint in the bullpen, and turned in his longest outing of the season.

Jason Motte got his 33rd save in 38 chances.

Skip Schumaker hit a solo homer and Matt Carpenter drove in two runs for the NL wild card-leading Cardinals. Yadier Molina and Allen Craig added RBI singles and Kelly scored a run.

Daniel Murphy and Kelly Shoppach hit two-run homers for New York.

Braves 6, Rockies 1

In Atlanta, Kris Medlen struck out a career-high 12 to lead Atlanta over Colorado.

Medlen (7-1) allowed five hits without a walk in his second complete game of the season. He extended his streak of scoreless innings to 34 2-3—the Braves' longest since Greg Maddux in 2000—before the Rockies scored an unearned run in the seventh.

The right-hander, who appeared in 38 games in relief before moving into the rotation July 31, improved to 6-0 with a 0.54 ERA in seven starts.

David Ross hit a two-run double in Atlanta's four-run third inning.

Tyler Chatwood (4-4) gave up six runs, five earned, in only three innings with five walks.

Marlins 7, Brewers 3

In Miami, Jose Reyes drove in three runs and Miami snapped a four-game losing streak with a victory over Milwaukee.

Ricky Nolasco (11-12) gave up three runs, though only one was earned, and nine hits in seven innings. He was coming off his third career shutout, against Washington.

Mike Fiers (8-7) lasted 3 1-3 innings. He gave up six runs—four earned—six hits, walked four and struck out four.

Steve Cishek worked the ninth for his 12th save in 16 chances.

Carlos Gomez hit a two-run home run in the second for the Brewers.

Dodgers 4, Padres 3

In Los Angeles, A.J. Ellis singled in the winning run in the bottom of the 11th inning, giving the Los Angeles Dodgers a 4-3 victory over the San Diego Padres for their second consecutive walk-off win.

Ellis got the game-ending hit off Cory Burns (0-1) after two-out singles by Andre Ethier and Luis Cruz, who had a career-high four hits.

Ethier tied the game 3-all with his 16th homer off Luke Gregerson with one out in the bottom of the ninth.

Brandon League (1-1) got the win with two innings of relief. He gave up one hit, struck out two and walked one.

Blue Haus, Church 360 stay alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Blue Haus and Church 360 remained in contention for the playoff spots in the 2012 DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League after beating separate foes last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Blue Haus pulled off an upset over defending champion KFC/Taco Bell in the first game, 78-65, while Church 360 nailed a come-from-behind 77-65 victory over LD Prime in the late night match.

The win improved Blue Haus' record to 2-2 and put the team in fifth place in Pool A, just one win behind three other higher-ranked squads—MBI (3-1), San Antonio (3-1), and KFC (3-3). Zhaila's leads Pool A with its spotless 4-0 mark and is likely to claim one of the four playoff berths.

Blue Haus leaned on its three-point shooting to stun KFC, hitting nine triples, six of them



Blue Haus' Edwin Camacho, center, steals the ball from KFC/Taco Bell's Ralph Francisco, right, during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

came in the second half.

Back-to-back triples—one each from Edwin Camacho and Amor Casabuena—brought Blue Haus back in the game in the closing minutes of the third, 52-all. Before Blue Haus' conversations from beyond the arc, KFC managed to steal the driver's seat and led by as much as 6 with brothers Ralph and

Mico Francisco combining for nine straight points midway in the third.

However, KFC lost the upper hand when it was held to 3 points in the last two minutes of the third canto, while Blue Haus fired 11 capped by Casabuena's buzzer-beating layup for a 57-52 cushion.

Blue Haus hung on to lead

early in the fourth, but was momentarily threatened when Trevor Ogumoro fouled out with still 5:48 left and KFC moved closer, 61-67. Ogumoro left the game with 11 points, making on triple and a fastbreak layup in the opening minutes of the fourth canto.

With the absence of one of its gunners, KFC thought Blue Haus would eventually fold up. Blue Haus did not, as after Ogumoro left the court, it launched a 7-0 run off Bernard Aquino's triple and Sam Fernandez and Edwin Camacho's layups. Blue Haus' lead went up to double digits, 74-61, and it ran the clock well in the ensuing plays to secure the 13-point win.

Aquino top-scored for Blue Haus with his 21 points, while Casabuena and Camacho combined for 25 and five of the team's nine triples. Aquino made two treys, while Fernandez and Ogumoro had one apiece.

Ralph Francisco drained all KFC's three triples and he finished with a team-high 17

markers. Angelo Fernando and Herbert Maranan only scored 6 points each, as they were in and out of the court and could not get momentum.

In the second game, Church 360 also gained momentum late in the third period and then held LD Prime to one free throw in the first five minutes of the fourth canto to steal the win.

After trailing in the majority of the first half, Church 360 forced the first deadlock of the game in the closing minutes of the third, 48-all, off Josh Luttrell's basket. The third canto went on to end with LD Prime ahead by only a deuce, 53-51.

A back-breaking 16-1 scoring in the first half of the fourth quarter turned the tables for Church 360, as Preston Basa, Wowie Abuel, and Luttrell teamed up in the rally for their 64-54 advantage. LD Prime never recovered and dropped to a 3-2 record.

Church 360 holds the same mark, tying LD Prime and Free-style for the third to fifth spot in the team standings. Anjie's Boys (5-1) and Looban (3-1) are the

Top 2 teams in Pool B, which will also have only the Top 4 teams advancing to the playoffs.

Basa led Church 360 with his 31 points, while Luttrell and Abuel chipped in 18 and 14, respectively. White Capalad paced LD Prime with his 17 markers, but was limited to a field goal in the fourth canto.

First Game

Blue Haus 78 – Aquino 21, Casabuena 13, Camacho 12, Ogumoro 11, Fernandez 7, Capalad 6, Galulu 6, Olivos 2.

KFC/Taco Bell 65 – R. Francisco 17, M. Francisco 12, Factor 10, Maranan 6, Fernando 6, Mendiola 6, Dela Rosa 5.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 38-31, 57-52, 78-65.

Second Game

Church 360 77 – Basa 31, Luttrell 18, Abuel 14, Wood 6, Buenabaja 4, Capuyon 3, N. Puno 1.

LD Prime 65 – Capalad 17, Teregeyo 14, Lerio 12, Hernaez 10, Banatasa 4, Magtuloy 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-20, 29-32, 51-53, 77-65.

TEAMS

From Page 24

Jun Rabauliman and Lizama.

Flores batted 2-for-3 with four RBIs, a run, and a base on balls. Lizama swung 2-for-3 with four runs, two stolen bases, and a base on ball.

Fiesta pitcher Muna dealt three scoreless and hitless 1-2-3 innings that set the tone and struck out three.

Winning pitcher Santos finished off the last four frames and kept the shutout intact. He struck out three, plunked one, and walked another.

POI 3, Kanoa Resort 2

In Saturday's second game, POI Aviation nipped Kanoa Resort by a run.

POI scored two quick runs right out of the gate with some aggressive base running, while Kanoa Resort's starting pitcher Brett Halstead struggled to find the strike zone.

He plunked leadoff man Lancaster Secharmidal and the speedster made him pay for it in the end.

Secharmidal stole second base right away and wound up at third after a passed ball before scoring off an error.

Khobby Kaipat then reached on a dropped ball at first base,

stole second, and scored with the help of a passed ball and a wild pitch.

As for POI, starting pitcher Peter Lieto was lights out and struck out the side in both the first and third innings for an ever efficient eight strikeouts in just nine batters faced.

He handed the ball to Jonathan Camacho to start the fourth inning and Kanoa Resort managed to tie the match back at 2-all thanks to an RBI single by Leroy Regis and a sacrifice fly by from Ricardo Dela Cruz.

Kanoa Resort's Regis took over for Halstead after the shaky start in the first inning and he left the door open for his team to spark another rally that never came.

Dela Cruz took over for Regis in the fifth inning before Jose Lizama came in to try and close the match in the top portion of the last inning.

Lizama found himself in quite a pickle with two inherited base runners, and although he needed just one out to get off the field, it came after POI's Lieto scurried home from third to give his team the lead.

In the end, POI's Kanoa Wanket was called to the hump to close the last three outs and he succeeded with little trouble.

and company had a balance scoring. Denise Samson led UCC with his 19 markers, Abrams added 14, and fellow veteran Glorily Williams nailed 13. Kaylani Lebría contributed 8 and Danica Canedo and Madeleine Alegre chipped in 4 and 2, respectively, to complete UCC's scoring.

Meanwhile, action in the Kanoa Resort caging will continue today with two more teams playing in their first game of the season at 6pm. The Lalaine Pagarao-led IDK Who

D&Q 2, POI 1

The game between D&Q and POI all went down in the fifth inning as POI's Peter Lieto lifted a sacrifice fly that scored Khobby Kaipat but D&Q responded right away with two runs in the bottom portion.

Jeremy Lizama made it on and around off errors, while Ton Guerrero hustled into scoring position, thanks to a costly error at short, and was escorted home via a base rip by Jhace Palacios.

D&Q's Carl Camacho then was tapped to close the last two innings and he did a good job keeping the rival squad at bay for the save.

Hits were hard to come by in what turned out to be a nice pitching display by both teams. D&Q out-hit POI, 4-2, in the game and committed only two errors, which perhaps made the difference in the outcome.

Kanoa Resort 7, Fiesta Resort 6

Kanoa Resort recovered after its narrow loss to POI on Saturday by outlasting Fiesta Sunday morning

Both teams hit the board for a run in the opening frame and it remained a stalemate through the middle innings until Fiesta Resort assumed a 3-1 lead in the fifth off back-to-back errors in the infield sandwiched between a couple of clutch hits.

faces the Jeraldine Castillo-banned Kiss My Pass.

Joining Pagarao on IDK Who are Negahr Rastgui, Jhaneeka Atalig, Anne Padilla, Krizel Tuazon, Shelo Olivos, Nicole Dawn Arboliras, Angela Ariarte, and Ka Wai Yiu. Jeraldine Castillo will be teaming up with sister, Jeralyn, Mikky Vargas, Dianne Pablo, Mae Ito, Nicole Loste, Patricia Abantao, A.J. Garon, and Charlene Lizardo.

This year's Kanoa Resort caging will have a double-round

Jun Rabauliman drove in leadoff man Frankie Camacho and Mike Muna sprinted home off a wild pitch.

Fiesta then added three more runs in the top of the sixth inning thanks to some sketchy pitching and the win looked like it was in the bag, but Kanoa Resort was not ready to call it a day just yet and instead surmounted the five-run deficit with four hits.

Davie Matagolai ignited the rally with a leadoff double and scored off an error.

Leroy Regis then singled home Justin Santos and Cedric Ada brought him to the plate shortly after.

Ricardo Dela Cruz singled on and scored off an error as Fiesta began to unravel and Jose Lizama grounded in Ada to knot the match at 6-apiece.

They tapped Brett Halstead to the mound to close the game and he managed to keep a lid on them.

Fiesta Resort's Jake Santos was chosen to contain Kanoa Resort at the start of seventh and he held them off for two and a third innings until Kanoa Resort's Matagolai bashed the game-winning single that scored second batter Perry Celis who reached just prior off a fielder's choice.

Details of Sunday's other two games will be released later this week.

robin format in the regular season, while the playoffs will be a crossover affair, with the No. 1 team meeting the No. 4 squad for the first finals berth and the No. 2 and 3 teams battling for the second and last finals seat.

UCC 64 – Samson 19, Abrams 14, Williams 3, Lebría 8, Canedo 4, Alegre 2.

Ichiban 18 – Bartolo 9, Pena 6, Lumabi 3.

Scoring by quarters: 21-5, 29-8, 48-8, 64-18.

BREWERS

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A pair of one-out base hits by Celis and Sablan knocked Yankees starter Jerome Delos Santos off the mound leaving his reliever Dave Jones to deal with the thick of the Brewers' order.

First man Kaipat drove home Celis and Pangelinan reached on a single to reload the bases, after which a bonus run came in after a walk.

Sablan scored off an error during Kaegel Taitano's at bat and the latter kept it rolling with an RBI single that brought in Pangelinan. Taitano scored off an error before the Yankees could escape the muddle.

Brewers' Celis remained strong from the hump late in the game and denied the Yanks access past second base for the remainder of the game, while he

and the rest of the crew added a couple of insurance runs to close the sixth inning.

Clifton Silil led off the sixth inning with a base hit and Celis legged out an error to help his own cause. Sablan then delivered Silil to the dish, while Kaipat lifted a sacrifice fly that scored Celis.

It was one heck of a game for winning pitcher Celis who has been playing hurt primarily at second base since the beginning of the post season. However, he somehow managed to go the distance and gave up three earned runs off 10 hits, one walk, a hit batsman, and a strikeout. He was all over the place and scored a game-high three runs.

Kaipat, meanwhile, batted 2-for-4 with two RBIs, two runs, and a hit-by-pitch, while Yankees' Patrido Guerrero went 2-for-4 with three RBIs.

REDUCTION

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team sports with numerous withdrawals by some Polynesian PGAs teams sports in order to focus resources on other international events. Combined with squad reductions and/or withdrawals in individual sports by almost all PGAs, this meant that NC2011 planned for hundreds of athletes who never traveled to Noumea," the recommendation added.

With the proposed reduction, only 13 compulsory sports out of the 26 must be included in the calendar of events. Out of the 13, nine sports have already been identified: athletics, basketball, golf, rugby 7's (men's), swimming, table tennis, tennis, canoe racing, and weightlifting. These sports were selected based on their high participation rate during the 2007 Pacific Games in Samoa and last year's

competition in New Caledonia.

Four former optional sports—boxing, taekwondo, judo, and women's rugby 7's—were recommended for inclusion on the compulsory list, while beach and indoor volleyball were combined to fill the No. 13 event. Football is demoted to optional from compulsory sport, while netball, bodybuilding, power lifting, and triathlon are placed on the "watch list" for consideration in the sports program review.

The proposed reduction of the Pacific Games if approve will be implemented after the 2015 event in Papua New Guinea, while the Mini Games' new calendar will take effect at the conclusion of the 2017 competition in Vanuatu.

The suggested reduction of both games and other changes in the Pacific Games Charter will be put to a vote during the PGAs general assembly in Wallis & Futuna on Oct. 18 and 19.

UCC

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rosters, got all its 5 points from Saipan Southern High School standout Vanessa Bartolo. She and Friendly Joy Pena were the only two Ichiban players to score more than one field goal in their debut and the deficit grew in the last three quarters.

While Ichiban struggled with its offense, failing to drop a single basket in the third period Abrams

McIlroy avoids major hangover with Boston victory

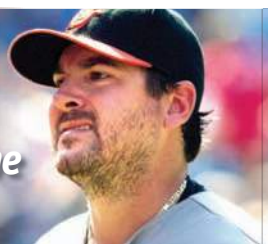
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Orioles top Blue Jays to cut AL East gap to 1 game

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24 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Brewers just a game away from title

Brewers second baseman Clifton Salil chases down a ground ball during Game 3 of the SML finals against the Yankees last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings Brewers rumbled past Saipan Stevedore Company Yankees, 11-5, in Game 3 of the Saipan Major League Baseball Association's best-of-five championship series held Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



Pennant champion Brewers dropped the very first game, but have since bagged two big wins all in come-from-behind fashion.

The series resumes with Game 4 tonight at Tan Ko Field at 6:30pm.

Brewers loaded the bases right away and scored off an error, a fielder's choice, and a nifty squeeze play by Ton Guerrero that scored Mike Pangelinan. Manny Sablan and Byron Kaipat accounted for the other two runs.

Brewers' Roy Celis then busted a one-out double and scored off an error in the third inning for another run, but the Yankees moved in front, 5-4, in the top of the fourth off three hits and a little small ball of their own.

Patrido Guerrero squeezed home Gary Cruz, while Ben Jones Jr. followed soon after with a two-RBI base smash that scored Greg Camacho and Greg Iskawa.

Brewers pitcher Celis stuffed the Yankees 1-2-3 in the fifth, however his teammates bashed five hits in the bottom portion to reclaim control, 9-5.

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UCC routs Ichiban in Kanoa caging opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



UCC got off to a rousing start in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Women's Fall Basketball League after whipping Ichiban, 64-18, last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

The Rachel Abrams-led UCC gave the novice Ichiban Crew a neat basketball lesson to win the opening game in the four-team women's caging. A 14-4 scoring

in the first eight minutes of play was all UCC needed to control the game and walk away with a big 46-point victory.

Abrams, who towers above the rest of the players of the two opposing teams, anchored UCC's strong start, as she scored 10 points in the first period, drilling mostly uncontested shots in the paint. With the former CNMI Women's U17 team dominating in the paint, UCC built a 21-5 lead after the opening canto.

Ichiban, which has a bunch of basketball beginners on its

See UCC on Page 23



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

UCC's Denise Samson, left, is fouled by an Ichiban defender during the second quarter of their game in the opening of the Kanoa Resort women's caging last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

4 teams knotted up as U18 baseball kicks off

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



All four competing teams in the U18 youth baseball tourney under the

Tan Holdings' 40th Anniversary Sports Festival have so far split their games and hold similar 1-1 win-loss records following last weekend's matches at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The tournament uses a double-round robin format with a page system playoff scheduled for this weekend, weather permitting.

Fiesta Resort 10, D&Q 0

Last Saturday, Fiesta Resort & Spa roared out of the gate with a one-hit, 10-0 shutout victory over D&Q Distributors.

Fiesta Resort & Spa pitchers Mike Muna and Jake Santos



WALTER SUTHERLAND CEPEDA

Fiesta Resort & Spa third baseman Jun Rabauliman throws to first base for a force out in Sunday's 40th Anniversary Sports Festival youth baseball tournament matchup against Kanoa Resort at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

teamed up and served D&Q a sour one-hit no-no in the event opener that inspired a lopsided victory for the group.

D&Q starter Carl Camacho made it through the first inning unscathed, but Fiesta worked around a couple runs in the second frame off an error and a fielder's choice that scored A.J. Lizama and T.J. Sablan.

D&Q then ended up opting for three pitching changes in the third inning that resulted in a 5-0 lead for Fiesta after its trio gave up six walks.

Fiesta designated hitter Jake Flores then made it a 7-0 count in the fourth inning with a two-RBI base smash that scored Poland Masaharu and Lizama.

Fiesta's Frankie Camacho kept it rolling with an RBI single that scored Kenji Yamagata in the fifth and Flores signed off the match with a booming two-RBI double that brought home

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Cutdown in Pacific, Mini Games sports proposed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Executive Board of the Pacific Games Council is recommending to reduce the sports programs of both the Pacific Games and Mini Games.

From the 28 sports scheduled in the 2012 Pacific Games in New Caledonia, the board is proposing 26, while the Mini Games' size will be down to 12 from 15. The reduction was suggested due to financial concerns and dwindling participation of Pacific Games-member nations since 2003.

"The Pacific Games Council

must stay ahead of the curve on this issue and fundamentally address the real risk of diminishing priority afforded to the Pacific Games by the athletes and national federations. The crowding of the international calendar by an ever-increasing array of competition platforms which are available to the athletes, especially Oceania zone Olympic qualifiers, plus the high cost of travel throughout the Pacific, heighten these risks considerably," stated in one of the 36-page board recommendation.

"This was demonstrated at the 2011 Pacific Games in the

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